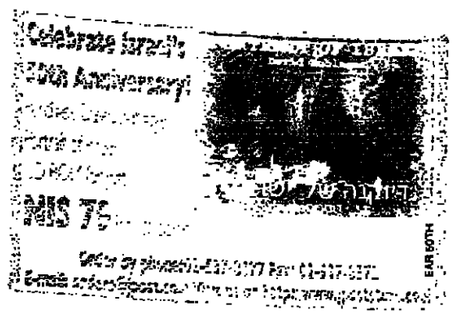
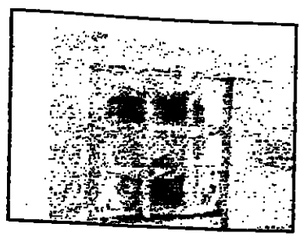


THE JERUSALEM POST

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IDF, PA locked in Gaza standoff



Palestinian security forces argue with IDF soldiers yesterday in Gush Katif. (AP)

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and news agencies

IDF troops were locked in a standoff last night with Palestinian Police and security forces who blocked the entrance to Gush Katif in a dispute over access to Gaza Strip roads.

The dispute backed up traffic across the strip, stranding hundreds of vehicles and effectively cutting off the settlements of Netzarim, Kfar Darom and Morag.

PM to Palestinians: Stop making threats, Page 2

Israel Radio and Palestinian sources said Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny and US envoy Dennis Ross were involved late last night in efforts to mediate the dispute and avoid bloodshed. They were reportedly in contact with cabinet secretary Dan Naveh.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai also got involved, demanding that the Palestinians clear the road, Israel Radio reported.

The IDF beefed up troops in the Gush Katif area and called the Palestinian blockade a planned provocation, that followed a dispute between Palestinian Authority Supplies Minister Abu Ali Shahin and IDF soldiers over use of a security road that runs along the Gush Katif coast.

The IDF Spokesman said that in the afternoon hours Shahin had arrived at a roadblock at the entrance to the security road that runs between Khan Yunis and Dir Aballah and asked the IDF soldiers to allow him through.

Due to his position, the IDF Spokesman said the soldiers agreed to permit Shahin to pass through, but Shahin then demanded that all the Palestinian vehicles in his convoy be allowed to use the road, including about 30 trucks carrying supplies.

Shahin refused to continue on his way until the IDF agreed to his request and he notified the Palestinian security forces.

At the same time, in what the IDF Spokesman said was a clearly planned move, armed Palestinian policemen poured into the Gush Katif, Netzarim and Morag intersections, taking up positions and blocking them with vehicles in response to the IDF's refusal.

The IDF Spokesman said the incident was extremely grave and that officials were doing everything possible to restore order.

OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Yom Tov Samiya sent an urgent cable to Palestinian General Security Commander Mohammed Dahlan, describing the act as senseless provocation.

Seeking to avoid violent confrontation, IDF officials continued a dialogue with their Palestinian counterparts as IDF troops and tanks were reported heading to the area.

See GAZA, Page 12

Vilna'i quits the IDF

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilna'i unexpectedly quit the IDF yesterday, several weeks after he was passed over for the post of chief of general staff.

Vilna'i, 54, had been expected to muster out only next April after a nine-month furlough. By slamming the door on the IDF, Vilna'i forfeited a lucrative salary and other perks.

He said he did it to avoid the various restrictions that would bind him during his furlough.

"I am getting out of the army today with a sense of missing an opportunity," Vilna'i said. "I don't plan on attacking the IDF. The IDF is dear to me. I am getting out to be free, to express my opinions and do what I want without getting permission."

A 36-year career army man, Vilna'i had been widely considered the natural choice to succeed Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak as chief of general staff.

But Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai chose Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz as the next head of the IDF in an acrimonious battle for the top slot.

Afterwards, Vilna'i did not hold his tongue and said a "dastardly deed" and a "stinking maneuver" had been committed.

He made waves again this week when he told a conference that the country's defense doctrine was no longer adequate.

"I only hope they don't label me the 'bitter general,'" Vilna'i said, adding again: "The IDF is dear to me."

By quitting now, Vilna'i gave up the nine months of paid vacation, and the use of a car with a driver, and an office. He also apparently dropped out of a course at Harvard University.

The IDF Spokesman confirmed that Vilna'i had retired but said it was not unexpected and had been coordinated in advance.

Vilna'i leaves the army without the traditional farewell party or send-off. He plans to take a family vacation before deciding what to do next.

Sources close to Vilna'i said he has had many people and groups approach him, and that he is not ruling out a political career.

No one has served as a general in the IDF longer than Vilna'i.

Report: PA security has recruited convicted Hamas, Jihad terrorists

By STEVE RODAN

The Palestinian Authority has recruited 21 members of Hamas and Islamic Jihad into its intelligence services, including some convicted by the PA of involvement in the 1996 spate of suicide bombings, according to an Israeli report obtained by *The Jerusalem Post*.

The report, drafted by Israeli security officers, lists 21 suspected and convicted terrorists serving in several PA security agencies, including the Palestinian Preventive Security, Military Intelligence and a previously secret unit.

The US has been presented with the list of those Israel wants transferred, which is believed to be an element of the government's demands for reciprocity in the negotiations for an agreement for a second IDF withdrawal.

The report says six members on the list were "central figures in the planning and operations" of a string of suicide bombings in February and March, 1996. Sixty Israelis were killed in these attacks.

All six are reported to be serving in special units of the PA intelligence services and Palestinian police.

They were identified in the report as Abdul Ghol, who received training in Syria and Iran and is suspected of manufacturing the bomb that blew up at Dizengoff Center in Tel Aviv.

Ghol fled a PA prison in June 1996 and in December surrendered to the PA General Intelligence Service, which later drafted him.

Kamal Khalifa, who is suspected of having helped Hamas arch-terrorist Hassan Salame in the string of attacks, is now serving in PPSA.

Others involved in the bombings are Yassir Hassin, Bassam Issa and Mohammed Sanaar.

Three of the 21 terrorists drafted by PA security services were identified as aides to Hamas bomb-maker Mohammed Deif, the engineer of numerous suicide bombings.

Ofer Nimrodi gets 8 months in prison

Ofer Nimrodi, chairman of the board of *Ma'ariv*, was sentenced yesterday in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court to eight months in jail and a 10-month suspended sentence for wiretapping several senior editors of *Yediot Aharonot*. He was also fined NIS 1.1 million.

Judge George Cara agreed to delay Nimrodi's incarceration until October 1.

Analysis: Nimrodi's Waterloo, Page 2

Under a plea bargain reached two weeks ago, before Nimrodi was convicted, he had agreed to accept the fine and a suspended sentence. But the prosecution demanded a jail term, and Cara agreed.

David Ronen, who was responsible for security at Hachsharat Hayishuv, the Nimrodi company that owns *Ma'ariv*, was sentenced to six months of community service, a six month suspended sentence, and a fine of NIS 100,000.

Speaking to a packed courtroom, Cara said: "I'm signing off on this sentence in the hope that it puts an end to an ugly chapter of what was known as the 'media war,' the war that sucked in ordinary journalists and editors, some [of them] questioned, some suspected, some indicted. This was a war that had no winners and no losers, only humiliated individuals."

In January, the former editor of *Yediot*, Moshe Vardi, received a two-month suspended sentence in connection with the wiretapping of *Yedior* employees suspected of leaking information to *Ma'ariv*.

Following the sentencing, the National Federation of Israel Journalists called on Haim Zadok, head of the Press Council, to conduct an emergency debate on the issue of publishers and editors who commit crimes that could negatively impact the image of the media.

The federation asked the council to determine whether those convicted of such crimes can continue in their posts and if they are worthy of continuing to be members of the Press Council.

(Itim)

SHABBAT	BEGINS	ENDS
Jerusalem	7:11 p.m.	8:32 p.m.
Tel Aviv	7:29 p.m.	8:35 p.m.
Haifa	7:23 p.m.	8:36 p.m.
Beersheba	7:26 p.m.	8:24 p.m.
Eilat	7:22 p.m.	8:28 p.m.

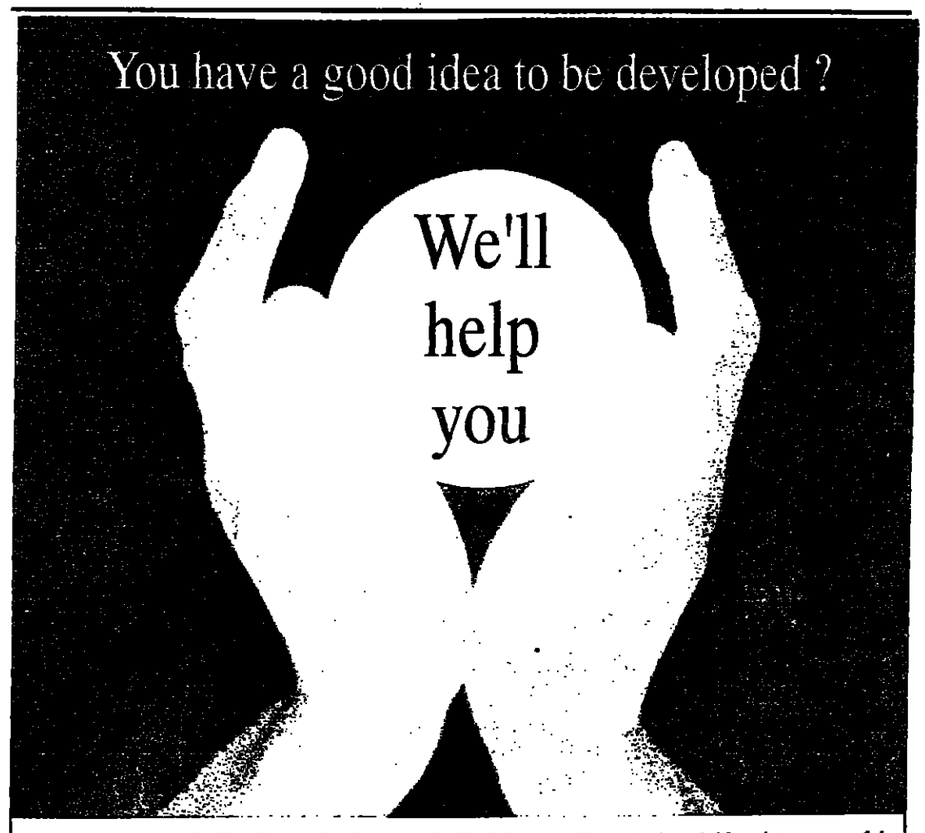
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NEWS
in brief

Interior Ministry under fire for tissue tests

The Interior Ministry yesterday denied that it had any "systematic" policy of asking aliya candidates to take tissue tests to verify whether they are relatives of recognized Jews.

Referring to a case described in press reports, it said that Vladimir Gordokol, 43, was told to take such a test because there was no other way to check if he was the son of a Jewish immigrant.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said that requesting tests further demonstrates the "racist policy" of the ministry. *Itim*

Two Lebanese held longer for swap

Israel held two Lebanese prisoners who had completed their terms this spring for another three months so it could use them in last week's swap for the body of Itamar Ilya, their Israeli attorney said.

The Prisons Service had no immediate comment.

Nabih Odeh and Ahmed Ismail were both arrested in 1988 and sentenced to 15 years for planting roadside bombs. On April 1, they were ordered released after serving two-thirds of their sentence, said lawyer Leah Tsemel.

However, the two remained in prison beyond the release date.

Tsemel said she was told at the time that technical problems were holding up the release.

"They knew there was going to be an exchange. So they kept them to use them in the place of another two whose sentences were not over," Tsemel said. *(AP)*

'Jane's': Syria is set to produce VX nerve agent

Syria is set to produce the deadly VX nerve agent, *Jane's Defense Weekly* reported, quoting Israeli intelligence estimates.

The respected military magazine said Wednesday that Syria is already able to produce other chemical agents "and is set to locally produce quantities of the VX chemical agent."

Israeli officials have previously accused Russia of helping Syria acquire chemical weapons, including VX, which is so potent that a single drop can be deadly.

Israel has long been concerned that Syria might put VX or other chemical agents in missiles capable of hitting its cities. *(AP)*

Winning numbers

In yesterday's weekly Payis Hazak drawing, ticket number 516841 won NIS 1.5 million, while ticket number 394762 won the car.

Tickets 290953, 367102,418995, 150452, 145523, 145422,165226 and 666380 won NIS 5,000.

Tickets ending in 71315, 64379, 24981, 55686, 88958, 93638, 96794, 68138, 14649, 82271, 75188, 13352, 06414, 68099, 79793, 50129, 94098, 20832 and 62574 won NIS 1,000.

Tickets ending in 742, 135, 723, 508 won NIS 100.

Tickets ending in 62, 28, 80, 87 won NIS 30. Tickets ending in 88 and 86, won NIS 20. Tickets ending in 1 and 6, won NIS 10.

Hizbullah captures SLA position

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Southern Lebanon erupted yesterday morning in a massive bombardment of Hizbullah mortar fire as the gunmen temporarily conquered an SLA position, proudly waving their flag from its ramparts.

One Hizbullah fighter was killed in the attack and a Lebanese civilian died of a heart attack caused by retaliatory Israeli artillery fire, UN and Lebanese sources said. Israeli military sources said a second Hizbullah fighter may have also been killed in the assault.

At least three soldiers from the Nahal Brigade and an South Lebanese Army militiaman were wounded by Hizbullah mortar fire elsewhere in Lebanon, IDF sources said.

They were evacuated to Haifa's Rambam Hospital. An IDF officer was listed in serious to moderate condition with severe shrapnel wounds, hospital officials said. The other soldiers suffered light wounds.

Despite its losses, Hizbullah's well-planned and executed attack is certainly considered a propaganda victory for the Shi'ite gunmen and a blow to the morale of the SLA militiamen, who hid in their bunkers during most of the assault. They only emerged after the Hizbullah fighters withdrew, military sources said.

UN and IDF sources said the Hizbullah gunmen remained in the outpost for about a quarter of an hour and then retreated, hauling military booty and their wounded with them on stretchers.

The army said a dead Hizbullah fighter was left behind.

The attack began at about 5 a.m. when Hizbullah gunmen fired mortars, Sagger missiles and heavy machine guns a IDF and SLA positions along the entire front. A Hizbullah statement in Beirut said 18 outposts were targeted.

A relatively large Hizbullah force assaulted the SLA outpost at Shakif el-Nimel, near the village of Hadatha, about 12 kilometers north of the border on the edge of the security zone.

After Hizbullah withdrew, Israeli troops and SLA reinforcements also took up positions on the outpost to prevent a repeat performance, the sources said.

Reports from Lebanon said an IAF helicopter gunship came to the aid of outpost and fired three missiles at the Hizbullah fighters. Witnesses told AP that they saw some 30 Hizbullah fighters withdrawing after the battle.

OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine said the Hizbullah had waited to attack until after last week's body swap in which Israel received the remains of naval commando Itamar Ilya in return for 40 slain Hizbullah gunmen, including the son of Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah.

"The timing is not a coincidence," Levine told reporters. "They waited until the body swap was completed and apparently wanted to stage a 'show operation' in memory of Hadi, Nasrallah's son."

Israeli and SLA artillery hit back at Hizbullah targets.



Ofer Nimrodi (left) and his lawyer, Dan Avi-Yitzhak, review the court ruling yesterday. (Yael Somekh/Israel Sun)

Nimrodi's Waterloo

ANALYSIS

By [illegible]

Ofer Nimrodi's downfall and jail sentence incorporate two key messages and three important consequences.

First, the high and mighty do *not* always get off scot-free here, the numerous recent acquittals of public figures notwithstanding. Our judicial system will not hesitate to put even the richest and most well-connected of its citizens behind bars.

Second, the power of the press to scare off potential antagonists is not unlimited. Despite the great care which politicians – and many media personalities – take so as not to antagonize our press barons, we still have public institutions that will not be scared off. Our court system is Israeli's true democratic watchdog.

The consequences are no less interesting.

First, should the court find that Nimrodi's crime involved "moral turpitude," pressure will mount to bar him from continuing as publisher of *Ma'ariv*.

This could have the effect of significantly changing the country's print press constellation, as the Nimrodis did not buy into the newspaper business merely to make a buck (there are easier ways of doing this than knocking heads with the *Yediot* empire), but rather to have a significant impact on the country's public discourse.

Should they now wish (or be forced) to sell, the resulting struggle for control on the part of other economic powerhouses could get nasty – not to mention the possibility of ultimately changing *Ma'ariv*'s tabloid editorial policy.

Second, the "newspaper wars" to which we have been witness over the past several years might take on a different – decidedly more restrained – style, as all parties come to realize that matters have really gotten out of hand.

Finally, the image of Israeli journalism has been even further damaged in the public's eye.

But in this there might be good news as well, for journalists might take heart from the court's ringing message and begin to actively revolt against the rampant commercialization of the profession, which Nimrodi did so much to inculcate (remember Dan Margalit's resignation after a only a few months as *Ma'ariv*'s chief editor?).

One bad apple does not a rotten barrel make, but once this apple is out of the way, Israel's newspaper barrel may recover its former flavor.

Prof. Sam Lehman-Wilzig is Coordinator of the Mass Communications Program in Bar-Ilan University's Dep't of Political Studies, and currently also serves as Chairman of the Israel Political Science Association.

PM calls on Palestinians to stop making threats

By HERB KEINON

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu called on the Palestinians to stop making threats yesterday, a day after Palestinian Authority head Yasser Arafat said that "the patience of the Palestinian leadership and the Palestinian people has run out."

In statements to the press after meeting with Canadian Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs Stephane Dion, Netanyahu said that "all these threats – this is not an acceptable method to us. We are engaged in negotiations, trying to make progress, and they are making constant threats: 'if we do not get what we want, we will resort to violence.'"

Netanyahu said this behavior is "precisely the opposite of peace, and contravenes the Oslo Accords. What are we demanding that he [Arafat] honor?" Netanyahu asked. "The Oslo Accords, as he promised. From our perspective, these are not wonderful agreements, but we are committed to them – and he must be as well."

Despite the problems in the negotiations, contacts with the Palestinians are continuing, Netanyahu said.

"The problem is not the mechanism of the contacts, the problem is their substance," he said.

The prime minister said that an agreement with the Palestinians can be reached "very quickly," as soon as the Palestinians fulfill their commitments under the Oslo Accords.

"We do not want promises," he said, "We want the fulfillment of commitments – timetables, implementation and a supervision mechanism."

Regarding the recent dispute with President Ezer Weizman, Netanyahu said that "I think that, for the good of the country, it is important for the president and prime minister of the state of Israel to settle all issues on the agenda between them and certainly not through public dispute."

New class of IAF pilots graduates with fanfare

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The latest class of Air Force pilots graduated yesterday amid a spectacular display of air power marking – what else – Israel's jubilee.

The Air Force, having orchestrated a stunning air show of international acrobatic teams in Tel Aviv Wednesday, was determined not to be stood up. It put on a show that had the audience gasping and cheering for more.

An acrobatic show at the Hatzerim air base by the Air Force *Fuga* jet squadron was remarkable this year considering that former commanders of the IAF were in the back seat.

President Ezer Weizman, a former IAF commander, who was grounded for security and possibly health reasons, watched the show from the stage.

He shook Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's hand when he arrived.

"After 50 years," Weizman said, gazing out at the ranks of new pilots and navigators. "I feel like a grandfather who has just been given a number of grandchildren." The presence of a female cadet marching in formation was noted with cheers.

If she holds out, she could receive her wings in the next graduation ceremony in six months.

The speeches were followed quickly by an attack on a collection of burned out armored hulks by a pair of Phantom F-4s and F-16s. Each dove on its targets and unleashed four bombs.

Apache attack helicopters then blasted barrels sky high as CH-53s landed and deposited troops and jeeps on the tarmac.

A Spitfire flew by, followed by an F-15, which roared into the sky and disappeared, only to return as the Hatikva sung by the crowd reached its climax.

CORRECTION

England and Colombia did not reach the quarter-finals of the World Cup, as mistakenly printed in *Time Out*'s television listings for today.



Is the incredible performance of the U.S. market making you nervous? On one hand, you're reluctant to miss out on the biggest bull market yet. On the other, you're wary of big losses should the inevitable drop take place. At the same time, you're trying to keep up with the continued shift in market leadership, but it's hard to read it accurately. So you wait and waver...

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California restores measures against Swiss banks

By TOM TUGEND

LOS ANGELES – California Treasurer Matt Fong has reimposed sanctions on three leading Swiss-based banks, citing their foot-dragging in settling dormant Jewish accounts from the Holocaust era.

"I am troubled by the slow pace set by the banks...it is time they opened their moral ledgers, not just their financial ledgers," Fong said during a phone news conference after a meeting with other state and local financial officers in New York.

Fong said that until further notice, he will stop all investments and deposits from California's $32 billion portfolio in the US subsidiaries of Credit Suisse, Swiss Bank Corp. and the Union Bank of Switzerland.

Last October, Fong lifted a four-month moratorium on Swiss bank investments, citing criticism from the US State Department, and what he considered a lack of support from Jewish organizations, particularly the Anti-Defamation League.

The current sanctions will last "as long as I am the state treasurer," he said. Fong is the Republican candidate in the November election for US senator.

In a related development, the California State Assembly Insurance Commission unanimously passed a bill to set up a four-year, $16 million research fund to help recover unpaid insurance claims for some 20,000 Holocaust survivors or descendants of Holocaust victims, living in California.

Swiss banks face more sanctions in US

By MARILYN HENRY and news agencies

NEW YORK – One day after American state and local finance officials allowed sanctions against Swiss banks, New York City and state controllers threatened to bar investments with the banks.

Other states, such as California, are also taking or considering action.

In New Jersey, the legislature is considering a bill that would require the state to divest some $66 million in stock invested with Union Bank of Switzerland until assets are returned to Holocaust survivors. Vermont, Rhode Island and Kentucky also are considering the possibility of sanctions.

Last year, Massachusetts ended its $120,000-a-year contract with Union Bank.

Alan Hevesi, the New York City controller, said the reason for lifting a moratorium on sanctions was because negotiations between the banks and Holocaust survivors on war-era claims has "reached a total, stone-like impasse."

"The Swiss banks are outraged," said Ulrich Pfister, a spokesman for Credit Suisse. "Sanctions are unjustified and counterproductive. We will study all measures we can take against them."

The US State Department said that the proposed sanctions would be "unjustified, unwarranted and counterproductive".

"They will prevent our nation from speaking with one voice on matters of foreign policy, they will call into question the openness of our financial markets and they may lead to greater inflexibility on the part of the Swiss institutions," department spokesman James Rubin said.

Rubin urged the two sides, the banks and lawyers for Holocaust survivors who filed class-action suits, to reach a quick settlement and avoid recriminations. The State Department had been hosting negotiations between the parties.

"We believe it is imperative to deal with aging and fragile Holocaust survivors as promptly as possible. A prolonged litigation is not in the interests of either side. It will deny prompt justice to victims in their lifetime," he added.

"We call on both sides to reflect on the consequences of going down the road of protracted litigation and recriminations. Before any actions are taken, we ask both sides to consider a return to the negotiations," he said.

The Swiss government said yesterday good relations with the US would be endangered if US cities and states went ahead with threatened sanctions against Swiss banks over claims to Holocaust accounts.

"These kinds of sanctions are counterproductive, unjustified and illegal. They constitute a danger to the good bilateral relations between Switzerland and the United States," the Federal Council, or cabinet, said in a statement.

"The Federal Council expects the US government to prevent such sanctions in the course of fulfilling its international obligations," the cabinet said.

Credit Suisse and UBS AG face three class-action lawsuits in the US seeking some $20 billion, and parallel demands from the World Jewish Congress for "moral and material restitution."

The banks offered a settlement of $530 million, have pledged to pay claims arising from the forensic audit of war-time accounts, and spent $70 million to establish the Swiss humanitarian fund for needy Nazi victims.

The WJC and survivors' lawyers dismissed the settlement offer as "insulting." The Swiss government is not a direct party to the suits or the settlement talks, although its Swiss National Bank was the primary conduit in Switzerland for Nazi-looted gold during the war.

Melvyn Weiss, one of the plaintiffs' lawyers, said Jewish groups have proposed a $1.5 billion settlement that would cover claims against all Swiss banks as well as the Swiss government.

"We tried to get the Swiss government involved and bring peace between these people. And the Swiss government, instead of being proactive in helping to put this behind us, has been a negative influence," Weiss said.

On Tuesday, US Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat said: "It is time for the Swiss government to say how it is going to bring this to closure.

"The Bergier Commission itself was very direct and very pointed in terms of what the Swiss National Bank knew as early as 1942, namely that they were dealing with looted gold."

The Bergier Commission is an independent panel of international historians that was convened by Bern to assess Switzerland's wartime behavior. The Swiss government has not publicly said how it intends to deal with the commission's conclusions.



New York City Controller Alan Hevesi gestures during a news conference in New York yesterday, after the city and New York State lifted a moratorium on sanctions against Swiss banks. (AP)

Settler released on bail as probe of Arutz 7 continues

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The Jerusalem Magistrate's Court yesterday released Beit El resident Haim Sultan on bail and ordered him to refrain from all contact with Minister of Internal Security Avigdor Kahalani. Police say that Sultan had threatened to harm Kahalani if he shut down Arutz 7.

Sultan's threat, police say, came after a raid against the offices of the radio station on June 17. Sultan, who was arrested Wednesday night, denies making a threat.

The court ordered Sultan to pay NIS 1,000 bail and to refrain from contacting anyone on Kahalani's staff. Sultan, 28, is director of a school for girls in Beit El.

During the raid, police targeted a recording studio in Beit El, and transmitters on Har Bracha and in Psagot. They subsequently launched an investigation to determine if Arutz 7 was operating illegally. Police have questioned the station's managers, directors, broadcasting personnel, technicians and advertising staff.

According to Israel Radio, the investigation is nearing its conclusion and police plan to file charges against some of its personnel.

Meanwhile, the station launched its annual telethon yesterday, calling on the public to donate funds to enhance the station's operations and refurbish it.

Israel Broadcasting Authority journalist Ya'acov Ahimeir called the station to voice support for Arutz 7 staffers:

"I would like to express my astonishment, mixed with protest, at the fact that I have not seen my journalist colleagues raising an eyebrow while broadcasters and journalists of Arutz 7 are brought for police investigation. I think that everything must be done within the framework of the law, but journalists should be asking questions," he said.



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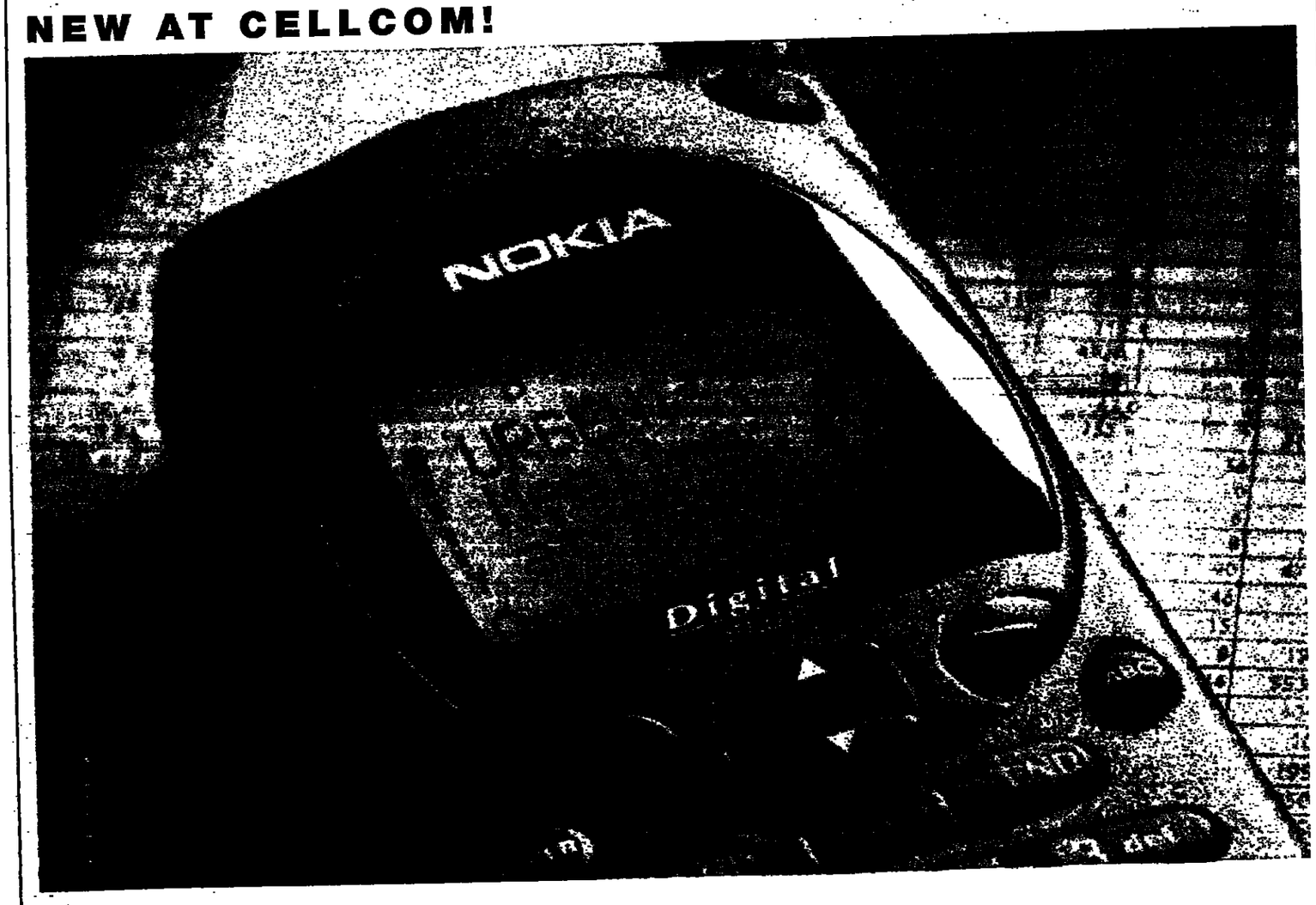
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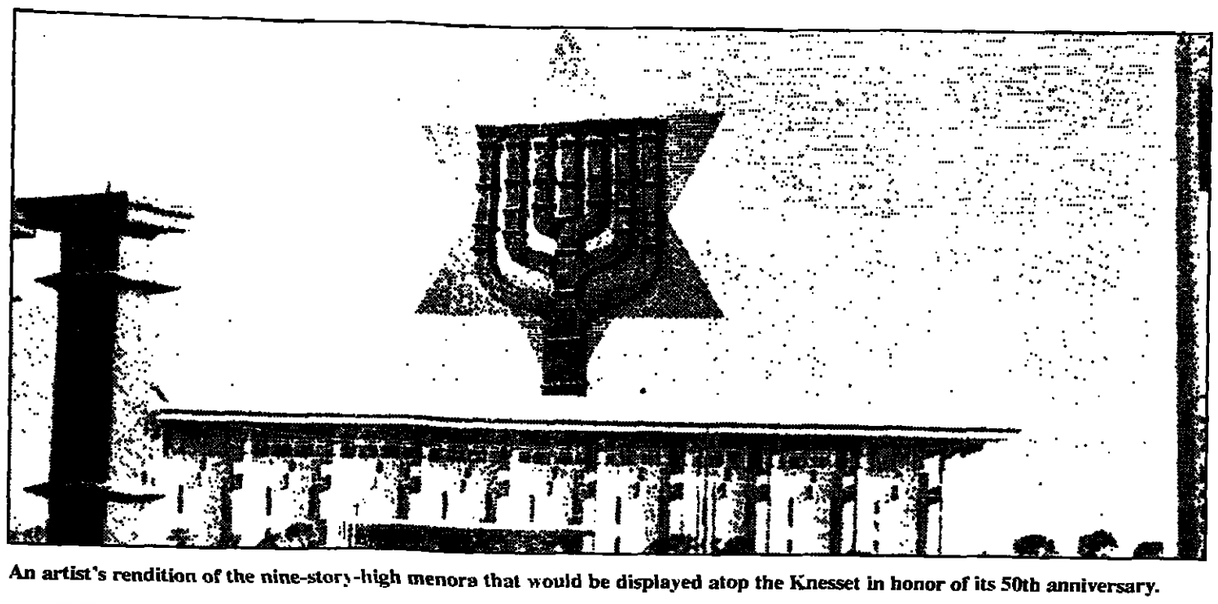
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An artist's rendition of the nine-story-high menora that would be displayed atop the Knesset in honor of its 50th anniversary.

Knesset mulls 'megalomanic' spinning menora

LIAT COLLINS

What does the Knesset need for its 50th birthday? How about a revolving 26-meter-tall menora with flashing lights on its roof?

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon has confirmed that the House could receive exactly that. The seven-branch candelabra would be a – larger – copy of the menora in the plaza opposite the Knesset.

It would be as high as a nine-story building, would be 14 meters wide at its base and, in case that's not visible enough, it would be surrounded by an enormous Star of David.

The idea is that it would be seen from its hilltop site in Givat Ram from much of the capital and generate interest throughout the country and even the world. It would cost some $300,000, to be covered by donations.

"It's true it sounds megalomanic but it will be the biggest attraction in the country," Tichon told reporters. "It will be a matter of world interest. It will generate public argument. There will be those who say it is ugly and those who say it is beautiful but the Knesset will become a focal point for visitors."

He noted that the German parliament in the past had "gift-wrapped" itself and turned into an environmental statue to attract attention.

Since the Knesset was established after the state, it marks its 50th anniversary starting next Tu Bishvat. If the plan goes ahead, the huge menora and its Star of David will be placed on the roof of the House on Tu Bishvat and will remain there for a year.

There are a few questions still to answered. Can the roof of the Knesset stand the added weight? How will the project help improve the public image of the House? And what would happen to the statue at the end of the year?

Nothing has been decided yet, but the issue will be the subject of a public discussion, said Tichon. The picture of the menora is scheduled to appear, from Sunday, on the Knesset's Internet site (www.knesset.gov.il).

Comptroller finds four Likud activists are members

MK Pines: Dissolve civil-service screening c'tee

By LIAT COLLINS and Jerusalem Post Staff

MK Ophir Pines (Labor) yesterday called on Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein to dissolve the Ben-Dror Committee, whose job it is to prevent political appointments in the civil service, after the state comptroller found that four of its members are Likud activists.

"Known Likud members, including those who ran in the party's primary elections, were approved by the committee for civil service jobs while declaring they have 'no political affiliations' and without the necessary qualifications," Pines said.

"The cat was appointed to guard the cream and ate up as much as possible. It's inconceivable that a committee that was meant to protect the civil service from political appointments is itself composed of political appointees who look out for their many friends."

Pines called for the committee to be dissolved and reconstituted according to new criteria "which will prevent it from becoming the employment service for the Likud or whoever is in power."

Likud spokeswoman Ronit Eckstein said in response, "The State Comptroller's Report on political appointments determined that there had been a drop of about a third of the number of political appointments compared to the previous period, under the Labor government.

"When the government changed after the elections, every Likud political appointment replaced two Labor political appointments. The State Comptroller's Report obliges the opposition to react in fairness and praise the government for professional appointments in the civil service and acting to double the number of women serving as heads of public companies."

In her final report as state comptroller, Miriam Ben-Porat wrote that 32 percent of directors for government companies and 46% of these companies' chairmen received their appointments through political connections and affiliations. Her report reviewed appointments made in the Labor and Likud governments between March 1995 and April 1998.

Ben-Porat harshly criticized the system of political appointments, stating that "many ministers choose their candidates for the position of public directors from among their friends and associates. This custom negates the principal of equal opportunity for all candidates."

She suggested that an external pool of candidates for directors' positions be set up. According to the comptroller, such a list should include candidates whose professional and managerial skills outweigh those of the candidates sponsored by government ministers.

Though Ben-Porat generally avoids mentioning names in her reports, the following are several of the more outstanding political appointments included in her report:

- Likud Member Mor Shamgar was appointed to the board of directors of a government tourism corporation, although found unqualified by the Government Companies' Authority, and she failed to inform the Ben-Dror Committee of her political affiliation.
- Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's former parliamentary assistant was appointed to the board of directors of the Amidar public housing authority, even though her education and experience did not fulfill the minimum requirements for the position.

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Report: Subs with nuclear strike capability to arrive in Israel soon

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON – Three submarines capable of firing nuclear-armed cruise missiles will enter service with the Israeli navy early next year, according to a newspaper report in London yesterday.

The *Guardian* reported that the first of the three German-built Dolphin submarines is undergoing trials in the North Sea and the Pentagon has confirmed that all three will be operational in early 1999.

Defense analysts say Israel has concluded that the acquisition of nuclear weapons by Islamic states in the region, notably Iran, is inevitable and that it must acquire a second-strike capability at sea in case its land-based nuclear arsenal is destroyed in a surprise attack.

However, the *Guardian* quotes US analysts as saying that the Popeye Turbo missile, which has a range of some 350 kilometers, could be more easily adapted for submarine launch and is capable of carrying a nuclear warhead.

The London-based Jane's Fighting Ships has reported that the diesel and electric-powered Dolphin submarines are capable of firing surface-to-surface missiles from their torpedo tubes.

Another publication in the group, Jane's Intelligence Review, last year estimated that 150 nuclear warheads and 50 Jericho-II intermediate-range missiles are stored at the Zacharia air force base, south-east of Tel Aviv.

The Jericho-II is said to have a range of about 5,000 kilometers and to be capable of delivering a one-ton payload, sufficient to carry a nuclear device.

The Dolphin submarines are two-thirds larger than the Gal submarines, which have been in service with the navy since the 1970s. Israel started negotiations to acquire the Dolphins in 1988, but withdrew from the deal in 1990 because it could not afford the asking price.

The project, however, was revived at the height of the Gulf War in early 1991 when Hans Dietrich-Genscher, at the time Germany's foreign minister, visited the site of Iraq's Scud attacks in Ramat Gan and announced that Germany would provide Israel with two of the submarines at no cost. Israel then decided to purchase a third.

Deputy ministers request higher pay

By LIAT COLLINS

The latest sector to join the fight for higher wages is the country's deputy ministers.

Among those who raised the issue with Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon earlier this week were Deputy Health Minister Shlomo Benizri (Shas), Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled (Tsomet) and Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Yigal Bibi (National Religious Party).

The deputy ministers want their wages to match at least those of Knesset committee heads. Currently, they do not earn a bonus for their ministerial positions and are paid the same as a regular MK, some NIS 24,000 a month.

The heads of Knesset committees and Knesset deputy speakers earn NIS 25,300 a month.

They also want the improved pension rights of ministers.

Tichon said he would study the issue and its implications.

The deputy ministers refused to talk about their demands to reporters.

MK Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism), head of the Knesset Finance Committee, told Israel Radio he thinks the demand is a fair one, as in most cases the deputy ministers work as hard as committee heads and harder than most regular MKs without enjoying the benefit of the long Knesset recess periods.

He also noted that some deputy ministers do not have a full-time minister above them, and the main burden of running the office falls on them.

"But the truth is there are also some who deserve a 'shame benefit,' because they don't do anything," Ravitz said.



Shas leader MK Aryeh Deri (left) consults with his lawyer, Yigal Arnon, before the High Court of Justice hearing yesterday. (Flash 90)

High Court orders Knesset panel to defend delay on Deri's immunity

The High Court of Justice yesterday gave the Knesset House Committee one week to explain its decision last week to postpone the vote on whether to lift Shas MK Aryeh Deri's immunity for three months.

Supreme Court President Aharon Barak also announced that the petitions against the House Committee, submitted by two watchdog groups, Amitai and the Movement for Quality Government, would be heard by an expanded panel of justices.

The reason for this, he said, was the important questions raised by the petitions regarding the degree to which the court may intervene in Knesset decisions.

Amitai and the Movement for Quality Government asked the court to nullify the committee's decision because the five-year statute of limitations might put an end to the legal proceedings against Deri before the end of the three months.

The organizations also charged that the committee's decision was based on extraneous considerations.

The five-year statute of limitations on the charges is due to run out on August 1, unless the courts rule that the clock stopped the day the attorney-general asked the Knesset to lift Deri's immunity. That issue has not yet been resolved.

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein asked the committee to lift Deri's immunity so that he could serve an indictment on five counts of breach of trust involving funneling public funds to religious and political institutions in his capacity as director-general of the Interior Ministry and, afterwards, as Interior Minister.

Rubinstein declined to represent the House Committee before the High Court, charging that it had erred in refusing to grant his request to lift Deri's immunity. Knesset legal adviser Zvi Inbar represented the committee instead.

Attorney Elad Shraga, representing the Movement for Quality Government said he would be satisfied with more than one High Court decision.

"If the court rules that the Knesset committee's proceedings stops the clock of the statute of limitations, that guarantees that the indictment will be served and there will be no reason for us to pursue the petition any further," he said.

Deri attended the hearing. His lawyer, Yigal Arnon, said he was happy the High Court would hear the petitions in an expanded panel.

"This is an excellent opportunity to determine the rules of High Court intervention in Knesset proceedings," he said. (Ilim)

Benizri demands better conditions for Alzheimer's patients

By JUDY SIEGEL

Deputy Health Minister Shlomo Benizri has called on "thousands of Alzheimer's patients and their families to go into the street and shout" to demand improved conditions for the elderly in general and Alzheimer's patients in particular.

Speaking Wednesday at the annual conference of the Israel Alzheimer's Association, held at Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan, Benizri said that dozens of vital drugs are waiting to be included in the basket of health services (supplied at reduced cost by the health funds).

"I am not a man of talk but of action," Benizri said. "We will hold a large gathering of experts to determine whether drugs prescribed for Alzheimer's are effective. This will be a step toward including them in the basket of services."

Regarding the queue for ministry-subsidized places in geriatric nursing institutions, Benizri said he received Health Minister Yehoshua Matza's promise that his discussions with the Treasury over the 1999 budget would include vigorous demands for additional money for beds.

Alzheimer's Association chairman Ruth Goldberg said Israel invests much effort in lengthening life expectancy, but "it doesn't provide the elderly with quality of life, which nears zero especially if they are ill."

She demanded that tacrine, a drug designed for Alzheimer's patients, be included in the basket of health services immediately and provided to every health fund member who needs it.

Ministry geriatrics chief Mark Clarfield said he was not convinced by medical reports that tacrine was effective in slowing the decline of Alzheimer's patients and added that it may even be harmful.

He said 2,300 sick elderly are waiting for institutionalization, and although the line is getting somewhat shorter, more resources are needed and "the Treasury understands this."

Drive Carefully

NEWS
in brief

Safed man arrested in attack on doctor

Police yesterday arrested a Safed resident for attacking the director of internal medicine at Safed Hospital, Yoram Mizritzki, and threatening his life.

Police officials said they were treating the incident with the utmost gravity, since it is the second of its kind in the hospital within a month.

The attacker, 30, is the son of a patient who arrived at the hospital in critical condition and is now out of danger, Mizritzki said. He quoted the son as saying yesterday: "If something happens to my mother, you will be rubbed out." *Ilim*

Advisory issued after death of rabid dog

A rabid dog that was caught in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem neighborhood has died in lockup, according to the veterinary service of the Jerusalem Municipality.

The unleashed dog had been picked up Monday and died on Wednesday.

The dog was a large, brown mixed breed. Anyone who has come into contact with a dog matching this description should call the health ministry at (02) 531-4811.

The veterinary service advises dog-owners to leash their dogs, since all unleashed dogs roaming public areas will be destroyed, they said. Owners should also make sure their dogs are vaccinated. *Amy Klein*

Watch out for jellyfish

With millions of jellyfish reportedly on the way to the beaches of Tel Aviv, Ashdod and Ashkelon, experts have issued advice on how to avoid being harmed by them. Observers said the jellyfish heading here are of the type that causes burns. The jellyfish issues venom through its arms when pressure on liquid-filled vesicles causes them to explode. The venom can cause burns and even enter the bloodstream. Signs of contact with jellyfish venom include red marks on the upper extremities, swelling, redness and a burning sensation. Dizziness and fever can also accompany a sting.

If stung, wash the skin with sea water – not potable water – to prevent a skin infection. Apply vinegar (5% concentration) with cotton wool, and bandage it with a sterile gauze and antibiotic ointment. Use a painkiller and an anti-allergy preparation such as Fenistil gel if necessary. *Judy Siegel*

Weizman ready to mediate in Arab village

"I am aware of the fact that there are some clashes, and I have told the head of the council that I am available to help," President Ezer Weizman said yesterday during a visit to Turan village in the western Galilee.

The most recent incident in the village came only a few days ago, when a woman was wounded in her eye from shooting that took place while she sat on her porch.

Various *sulha* committees, including one from the Palestinian Authority, have sought to end the conflict, but to no avail. "A *sulha* is not a simple matter, but if possible I will help," Weizman said. *Ilim*

Protestors to march against Trans-Israel Highway

By LIAT COLLINS

Environmental activists objecting to the Trans-Israel Highway project are literally taking their protest on the road with a planned nine-day march along part of the planned route.

The trip, organized by Green Action in coordination with several other groups, is scheduled to start Sunday at the Eliakim junction near Yokne'am and finish on July 13 at the Tel Hadid archeological site near the Ben-Shemen interchange.

Along the way, the demonstrators will hold lectures and activities every evening relating to the highway and various points it passes.

The lectures include the expected impact of the highway on nature protection, Arab villages, kibbutzim and public transport.

Green Action's Lev said the highway will not solve traffic congestion problems in the long term, particularly the bottlenecks at the entrance to major cities, and will cause environmental health hazards.

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Mondial 1 Austria 0

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

London this week hosted a series of important cultural events to mark the end of Britain's term in the presidency of the European Union, and the assumption of the post by Austria for the first time.

The Festival of Central European Culture, a courageously hyped and dismally ignored potpourri of arts and crafts, could not, alas, compete with the festival of 22 grown men chasing leather balls across France.

A half-empty concert hall is depressing, and there is no way the eternal optimists can make it feel half-full, as they can with a football stadium. Thus it was at the Barbican Center when the Austro-Hungarian Haydn Orchestra, (with musicians from both countries) gave its splendid festival concert to rows of empty seats.

In the foyer, stacks of the program book, *What Central Europe Means at the End of an Eventful Century* stood unclaimed.

Yes, that's what it means. European Union, Austria, central Europe, Haydn's "Salve Regina" at the Barbican – all yawn and double yawn.

Ah, Wien!

Once asked what the pope would think of some outrageous Communist action, Stalin replied "How many battalions has he got?"

Ask anyone in London this week for an opinion on Austria and central Europe and the answer would have been "lousy midfielders!"

The rotating presidency of the union is an exotic but interesting political animal. For six months each member country gets its turn to organize and host the key meetings and decision-making forums of the European Union, and to front its foreign policy.

When there were six members, each state got a shot at it every three years. This gave small countries like Denmark and Ireland recurring chances to shine and to demonstrate that size didn't matter. It gave big countries like Britain and France chances to blunder magnificently because of pomposity and arrogance.

It's all a bit like the World Cup after all.

What is interesting about the Austrian accession to the presidency is this theme of the renaissance of central Europe. It may be great as a theme for an art gallery, or concert hall, or glossy magazine, but what else does it mean?

"Ah Vienna," one can sigh in a pseudo-Germanic accent, "the dance, the opera, the arts, the glittering people."

Dark ages

This was Hapsburg Vienna of course, capital of the Austro-Hungarian empire until the whole glittering mess collapsed at the end of World War I – a war started by a Serb terrorist shooting a Hapsburg heir in Sarajevo.

(The Hapsburgs were not ephemeral royal dilettantes: they had gained control of this region by 1300. And the Austro-Hungarian empire brought autonomy to Hungary and 50 years of peace to central Europe.)

Twenty years after Austria was cut down to its tiny present size in 1918, its image was also cut down to that of a nasty little Nazi collaborator greeting Hitler in ecstasy. Afterwards it became the nasty little denier, the whining "first victim of Nazism" that elected an ex-Nazi officer as president.

Photographs of Austrian Jews being forced to clean streets with toothbrushes while their onetime neighbors jeered and gloated remain some of the images that most anger any decent person who hears the "first victim" thesis spouted, even to this day in certain Viennese circles.

Now, however, a new Austria takes on the distinguished mantle of European presidency. It has been a fully functioning democracy since its independence in 1955 and its joining the union in 1995.

After 80 years, this small nation of eight million that lost an empire and gained a Reich, is emerging to seek a modest leadership role as spokesman for east European states aspiring to membership. Talks started recently to admit Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Estonia and Cyprus.

Who scored?

The festival of central European culture indicates that Austria also wants to remind the Europeans that their union of nations is not just about euro-currency, and free markets, and olive oil futures – it is about that elusive European soul and the individual people in whom it lives.

See COLUMN ONE, Page 12

Bowing to US pressure

Japan endorses bank-fix plan

By GEORGE NISHIYAMA

TOKYO (Reuters) – Japan acted yesterday to clear its 77 trillion yen ($546 billion) mountain of bad loans through a plan for public "bridge banks" to take over failed institutions while keeping sound borrowers afloat.

The long-awaited plan, endorsed by Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, seeks to answer criticism from the US and elsewhere about Japan's frail banking sector.

But financial analysts said the plan is not a cure-all and would not be of much use in the case of a major bank failure.

In a report accompanying the bridge bank scheme, a joint government-Liberal Democratic Party panel said it expects to see a restructuring of the financial sector through mergers and business transfers, including "timely and appropriate" liquidation of failed institutions.

A senior Finance Ministry official, briefing reporters on condition he not be identified, said that he expects the pace of mergers in the financial sector to now accelerate.

He also said that if the 30 trillion yen earmarked for stabilizing the industry was not enough, further steps would be taken.

"When you go above 30 trillion yen and some measures need to be taken, there are various measures, ways to resort to public resources," he said.

The commissioner of the new Financial Supervisory Agency (FSA), Masaharu Hino, said he expected the market mechanism would drive the restructuring of the nation's financial firms.

But a top Finance Ministry official immediately said he does not expect a huge number of bank failures to result from the bridge bank plan.

Analysts said any expectations that the scheme would cure long-standing financial sector ills quickly were overdone and that it could not handle the failure of a big bank, predicting disappointment as that realization spread.

"I don't think this scheme is appropriate for any of the big banks. In the case of the big banks, they definitely are going to be too big to fail, whether that's morally or economically correct or not," said Alicia Ogawa, head of equities research at Salomon Smith Barney.

Indeed, financial markets, which had climbed overseas and in Tokyo early yesterday in anticipation of the plan, became more subdued as it became clear it would yield no surprises, such as a rumored new tax cut.

Tokyo shares gave up much of their early gains by the close and the yen slid back a bit against the dollar by shortly after the formal announcement.

Under the plan, failed banks would be put under temporary public administration before dissolution while their healthy loan business is taken over by public bridge banks established under a holding company called the "Heisei Financial Restoration Corp."



Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto starts a meeting at his official residence yesterday on the plan to tackle Japan's bad loan crisis. At left is chief cabinet secretary Kanezo Muraoka. (AP)

Catholic churches torched in N. Ireland

By ELAINE MONAGHAN

BELFAST (Reuters) - Ten Roman Catholic churches were set alight in Northern Ireland, police said yesterday, a day after rival politicians opened a new power-sharing assembly that aims to end 30 years of bloodshed.

All of the fires, which left three churches extensively damaged in the British province but caused no injuries, were being treated as arson, police said.

But with smoke still rising from church roofs, most people in Northern Ireland's divided community — its pro-British Protestant majority and Irish nationalist Catholic minority — were looking to a new era of peace through self-rule.

"Our future starts today," declared the Irish nationalist *Irish News* daily.

"There must be hope that the assembly can run the country, better than ever before," echoed the pro-*British News Letter*.

The new assembly, set up with the approval of the vast majority of the divided population, put the main Protestant and Catholic parties side-by-side with old enemies in the conflict and victims of their violent campaigns for or against British rule.

The assembly will take day-to-day charge of large swathes of Northern Ireland's life. While British sovereignty remains intact, the assembly will also forge closer links with the Irish republic.

The arson attacks, which began late on Wednesday and carried into yesterday morning, coincided with growing tension over Protestant plans for a parade next Sunday that has touched off riots in previous years.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who flew into Belfast to help seal a peace accord between eight Protestant and Catholic parties in April, was reported to be ready to visit the province to defuse the situation.

The parade is seen as a litmus test of the strength of Catholic-Protestant enmities as it encapsulates the problems the assembly is designed to end.

Members of the Orange Order want to march down a Catholic street — as their forefathers have done since 1807 — in one of thousands of annual parades that commemorate William III's victory over King James II in 1690.

The overwhelmingly Protestant police force will be forced to stand against their brethren if a ruling by an independent commission barring the parade from Garvaghy Road in the town of Portadown is not overturned.

Orangemen have vowed to defy the ruling and local residents, led by a fiery defender of nationalist rights, have promised to stop them.

On the fringes on both sides stand shadowy figures opposed to the peace process.

Seamus Mallon, the moderate nationalist politician appointed as deputy first minister of the assembly, said "every effort is being made" to resolve the stand-off.

US President Bill Clinton, who is visiting China, telephoned Mallon and newly elected First Minister David Trimble yesterday to congratulate them and see how they could work together to head off violence this weekend, a senior US administration official said.

Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams, hunted for years as an Irish Republican Army (IRA) suspect but now the leader of a big faction in the assembly, has pledged to meet any Protestant leader to discuss the issue.

Trimble, who has so far refused to meet Adams because of his past and the IRA's failure to hand in any weapons, softened his stance at the assembly's inaugural meeting.

In the biggest public sign he could be ready to work with Adams, Trimble acknowledged that people could change.

Opponents of the new assembly are overwhelmingly from the Protestant community, horrified at sharing power with Sinn Fein representatives who include a convicted IRA bomber.

The IRA called a halt to its barrage of bombs and bullets against British rule last July.

Most of the IRA's loyalist enemies are also holding fire.

But dissidents on both sides of the sectarian divide have carried out sporadic attacks.

Opposition: Myanmar to jail Suu Kyi

By SUTIN WANNABOVORN

BANGKOK (Reuters) Myanmar's military is preparing a special cell in its notorious Insein prison for opposition leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, days after threatening to take legal action against her, opposition sources said yesterday.

But Yangon-based diplomats said the threat of legal action may be mere psychological warfare, with neither the junta nor the opposition really intending to step over established battle lines.

"According to informed sources from Insein Prison in Rangoon (Yangon), a special detached house located in the women's section of the prison was being renovated last week, believed to be for Burma's pro-democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi," the exiled All Burma Students' Democratic Front said in a statement.

Military spokesmen were not immediately available to comment.

Insein was the prison where scores of pro-democracy protesters were tortured and killed by the military after it seized power in a bloody coup in September 1988.

The renovation started immediately after Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) party sent a letter to the ruling State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) demanding that the junta convene a parliament by August 2 in accordance with the results of aborted 1990 elections.

The NLD swept the election, but its victory was never recognized by the military.

The two sides have since been at political loggerheads, with the opposition accusing the military of abusing human rights and curbing its activities.

For the first time since the May 1990 election, the military allowed the NLD to hold a gathering on May 27 in Suu Kyi's Yangon home to mark the eighth anniversary of the polls victory. Analysts believed then that this pointed to a warming of ties between the two sides.

But at the gathering, Suu Kyi launched a fresh political offensive and demanded that parliament be convened.

The military government bluntly rejected the NLD demand, saying that the convening of parliament was impossible until the National Convention of delegates, hand-picked by the military for the purpose, had drafted a new constitution for the country.

It also accused Suu Kyi of obstructing the convention's work.

"The Myanmar government and its people can no longer tolerate the acts of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who ignores the interest of the nation and people," the government warned in commentaries run in all three state-run Myanmar newspapers.

They said that those who obstructed the convention's functions faced five to 20 years jail.

State media also ran similar warnings in 1989 shortly before Suu Kyi was placed under six years of house arrest.

"The government made similar threats to her prior to her house arrest in 1989, but things have changed now. There are other factors now, especially pressure from Japan, which has barred SPDC from taking action against her," a Yangon-based diplomat said.

The Japanese government recently threatened to withdraw financial support for the SPDC if it continued to delay completion of the new charter, the diplomat added.

The military established the National Convention in early 1993 and claims that two thirds of the new charter has been completed, but has set no time frame for its completion. The convention has also not met for some time now.

Russia opposes rebel role in Kosovo talks

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russia said yesterday it did not see the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) as an acceptable partner in peace negotiations in the rebel Serbian province.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Vladimir Rakhmanin told a news briefing that Moscow favored "focusing on talks between Belgrade and political groups which cooperate with the moderate Kosovo Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova.

"We believe that this format of talks can provide a reliable and long-term settlement in Kosovo," Rakhmanin said. "The so-called KLO cannot be considered a political group. So far it consists of separate guerrilla groups which often lack coordination and are involved in terrorist activities in Kosovo."

The US made contact last week with what Washington believed to be leaders of the rebel KLA, in a move criticized by some as undermining Rugova's position.

The KLA is fighting for independence for Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority. KLA forces have taken nominal control of at least a third of Kosovo, and the US believes such a major force can no longer be ignored in the course of the peace process.

Germany on Wednesday largely backed the US position. German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said the rest of the Contact Group – which also includes the US, France, Italy, Russia and Britain – should negotiate with KLA representatives.

Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic met Rugova last month in line with a promise made in a joint statement with the Russian President Boris Yeltsin issued on June 16.

Rakhmanin reiterated Russia's position that the withdrawal of Serbian security forces from Kosovo could be carried out only along with curbing what he described as terrorist activities by Kosovo Albanian groups.

In deep sorrow, we announce the death of our beloved mother and grandmother

EVELYN GREENBERG ע"ה

Widow of Dr. Meyer Greenberg ע"ה

The funeral took place last night, Thursday, July 2, 1998 (8 Tammuz 5758).
Shiva at 31 Hatikva Street, Yemin Moshe, Jerusalem, Tel. 02-624 0034.

Bryna and Paul Epstein and family
Saadia and Lily Greenberg and family
Devora and Nathan Liebster and family

The members of Beit Knesset Beit Yisrael in Yemin Moshe

mourn the passing of our longtime member and dear friend a true Ashet Hayil

EVELYN GREENBERG ז"ל

and express our heartfelt condolences to her children and grandchildren

May you be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

Consecration of the Matzevah of our beloved daughter and granddaughter

RENANA RACHEL ELISHA ז"ל

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Sister: **Leah Weitzman, NY**

Burial took place in New York
Condolence calls at: Ringler Family, 37/5 Rehov Gilboa, Mevasseret Zion. Motzei Shabbat, July 4.

With deep sorrow we announce the death of our beloved

HAIM LUBINSKY

Advocate

The funeral will take place **today**, Friday, July 3, 1998 (9 Tamuz 5758) at 12 noon at the Savyon Cemetery.

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China cautions US on Taiwan arms sales

China yesterday said it was "firmly opposed" to US arms sales to Taiwan, a day after a top US official said sales of military hardware to the island would continue.

"We are firmly opposed to the United States or any country selling weapons to Taiwan," Foreign Ministry spokesman Tang Guoqiang told a news conference.

"This is in order to avoid the use of force and to strive to use peaceful means to realize the reunification of Taiwan with the mainland," he said.

Beijing has long railed against US arms sales to Nationalist-ruled Taiwan, but the US insists it is not prepared to scale back while China threatens force to reunify with the island.

Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui said he was grateful to US President Bill Clinton for keeping a US vow to continue arming the Nationalist-ruled island.

"Before Clinton's [China] visit, the US side repeatedly promised the visit would not jeopardize the Republic of China's interests, change US policy toward us or affect arms sales to Taiwan," Lee said, in his first public response to Clinton's landmark state visit to China.

"I feel grateful for the United States's sincerity in keeping its promises."

The 1979 Taiwan Relations Act obliges US arm sales to Taiwan.

On Wednesday US Deputy National Security Adviser James Steinberg made clear Washington's policy had not changed.

"We'll continue to sell arms to Taiwan consistent with our law and the three communiques," Steinberg told reporters accompanying Clinton on his visit.

"Our arm sales are exclusively defensive and for the legitimate defensive needs of Taiwan. That is something we will continue to do," he said.

China has viewed Taiwan as a rebel province since a 1949 civil war split, and it has threatened to invade if the island declares independence.

Tang urged Washington to abide by a 1982 accord in which the United States agreed to gradually reduce arms sales to Taiwan, and China expressed a commitment to peaceful reunification.

Washington has supplied Taiwan with advanced military technology, such as F-16 fighter jets and Patriot missiles.

The island democracy of 20 million people is a staunch ally of Washington.

"We hope that the United States, in accordance with the principles laid out in the three Sino-US joint communiques, will adopt a cautious attitude towards weapons sales to Taiwan," Tang said.

The three communiques, which include the 1982 accord, form the basis of Sino-US ties.

Tang reiterated Beijing's oft-repeated stance that Taiwan was purely a Chinese domestic issue.

"The security problem in the Taiwan Strait is an issue for the Chinese people and no foreign country has the right to interfere," he said.

On Tuesday, Clinton pleased Beijing but alarmed Taiwan by publicly stating US policy opposing Taiwan independence.

Other senior officials had underscored this long-standing US policy, but it was the first time Clinton had done so himself so explicitly. Beijing would like to see in a written agreement.

Taiwan immediately bridled at his statement, saying the US and China had no right to "conduct bilateral negotiations on anything related to our affairs."

Taiwan's Lee said yesterday he hoped Clinton's summit with mainland Chinese President and Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin would contribute to development of "democracy and human rights" in the communist mainland as well as to "global peace and prosperity."

Lee urged "all peace-loving countries to stand on the right side of history," Taiwan state television reported.

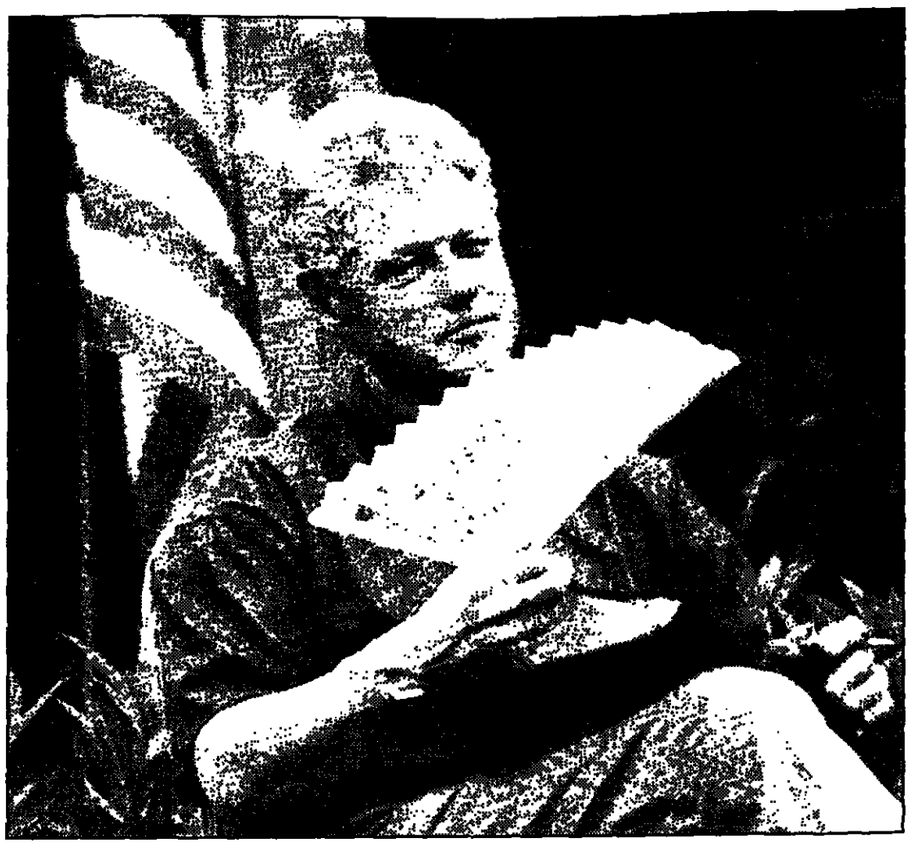
Lee made his comments at a reception for Central American diplomats.

US officials said Richard Bush, chairman of the American Institute in Taiwan — Washington's unofficial diplomatic outpost — was expected to visit the island tomorrow to brief Taiwan officials about Clinton's China visit.

Bush is based in Washington.

Taiwan has refrained from giving a full, formal response to Clinton's summit with Jiang, saying it first would await a full briefing from US officials.

(Reuters)



President Clinton fans himself with a Chinese fan while visiting Guilin, China, yesterday, where he addressed an environmental gathering. Earlier this week Clinton said US arms sales to Taiwan were 'purely defensive.' (AP)

Annan: Nigeria to release all political detainees

By FELIX ONUAH

ABUJA (Reuters) – UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said yesterday Nigeria's military government had agreed to free all its political prisoners.

A senior government source said agreement had been reached at late-night talks that the country's most prominent prisoner, Moshood Abiola, would give up his claim to the presidency, opening the way for his release.

Annan did not specifically name Abiola as among those to be freed but said the opposition politician no longer believed he could claim the presidency. The claim was the reason for his detention in 1994.

Annan's visit has been seen as the biggest sign yet of foreign confidence in military ruler Gen. Abdulsalam Abubakar, who took over after dictator Sani Abacha died suddenly on June 8.

World leaders have seized the chance to try to re-establish good relations with oil-producing Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, which soured because of Abacha's refusal to respect human rights and establish genuine democracy.

"The government has agreed to release all political prisoners and I believe the announcement will be made at the appropriate time," Annan told a news conference in Abuja.

"Abiola said he would want to be released to get on with his life. He told me 'I am not naive enough to think I can come out and be president'."

Abiola, 60, claimed the presidency on the basis of 1993 elections, regarded at the time as some of the fairest in Nigeria's history, and in defiance of dictator Abacha.

The elections were annulled as southwestern tycoon Abiola was poised to win, dragging the country into political confusion from which it has yet to recover.

Hopes have been raised for Abiola's release since Abacha's death and replacement by Gen. Abubakar, who has already set free more than 30 political prisoners.

"By agreeing to give up his mandate Abiola has paved the way for his own release. It could happen very soon. It could be hours, it could be days, let's wait and see," the senior government source told Reuters in Abuja.

Annan said Abiola was in good health but had complained that he was not in touch the outside world and what his supporters were doing.

Abiola also met Emeka Anyaoku, secretary-general of the Commonwealth of Britain and mostly former colonies which suspended Nigeria in 1995 for the execution of nine minority rights activists, including author Ken Saro-Wiwa.

Washington's new outlook on Taiwan

ANALYSIS

By CAROL GIACOMO

GUILIN, China (Reuters) – With China relations on an upswing, the United States is looking anew at the issue of Taiwan and how it can encourage a peaceful reconciliation between the mainland communist regime and the island democracy.

"This is the big challenge," said one senior US official travelling with President Clinton on his nine-day China trip.

"For me, it's the next big question." The task is daunting but essential. Tensions between Beijing and Taipei – rivals for nearly half a century – make the Taiwan Strait potentially one of the most explosive areas in Asia.

Taiwan legislative elections set for December are a compelling impetus for giving the issue more attention – and soon.

The independence-minded Democratic Progressive Party is widely expected to achieve a governing majority.

This could present a dilemma for the United States which has a tradition of encouraging and supporting democratic governments but has a policy of recognizing only one China, ruled from Beijing.

Taipei has many supporters in the US Congress and already the administration is under pressure to be more receptive to ideas about Taiwan independence.

Beijing, which considers Taiwan a rebel province blocking its drive to reunify communist China, has threatened to invade the island if independence is declared.

It is likely that the United States would be drawn into any war between China and Taiwan, a Pentagon-funded think-tank concluded in a new study, "Strategic Trends in China." But some US officials, upbeat about Sino-American ties after Clinton's summit with President Jiang Zemin, are more optimistic that dialogue between Taipei and Beijing could prevent such dire consequences.

"History shows when our relations with the mainland are better, Taiwan's relations with the mainland are better," one senior US official said.

Chinese nationalists fled to Taiwan in 1949 after communists took control in Beijing.

Taiwan's rulers already claim a form of independence for the island as the seat of power of the Republic of China, founded on the mainland in 1912.

But this status is not recognised by Beijing, which has worked to ensure Taipei is isolated diplomatically and barred from international organizations.

In 1979, the United States switched its recognition from Taipei to Beijing.

But the US Taiwan Relations Act permits unofficial contacts between Washington and Taipei to flourish. It also provides for arms sales to Taiwan, which Beijing bitterly opposes.

The act also commits the United States to "appropriate action" in response to threats to Taiwan.

In 1996, after China threatened Taiwan, the United States gave an indication of how that commitment might be interpreted when it sent two aircraft carrier groups to the region.

During what officials feel was a groundbreaking summit last Saturday that has put Sino-American relations on a new plane, Clinton explicitly articulated US policy on Taiwan as a marker to both sides.

Washington backs one China, ruled from Beijing not "two Chinas" or "one-Taiwan, one-China," Clinton said.

The United States opposes independence for Taiwan and membership for Taiwan of international organisations that admit states as members, he said.

But the president and other officials also reaffirmed US determination to sell arms to Taiwan for defensive purposes.

Experts say China is changing the balance of power in the Strait through military modernization.

Beijing is acquiring European and Russian technology to build high-resolution radar satellites, upgrade its ballistic, anti-ship and cruise missiles and buy new fighter jets and submarines.

Washington promised in a 1982 agreement with China to gradually reduce arms sales to Taiwan.

But US officials indicated that was unlikely at least until Beijing moves seriously toward some kind of peaceful reconciliation with the island.

China unified with Hong Kong last year under an arrangement that gives the former British colony a high degree of autonomy.

But any agreement with Taiwan may have to go beyond that.

Integrating the mainland and the island is daunting because of the huge disparities between the two. Taiwan is a democracy, China is an authoritarian communist system. Taiwan has annual per capita income of $12,000, China's is $600.

So far the two sides also have taken opposite approaches in their contacts, with Taiwan wanting to talk about "nuts and bolts topics" like fishing and hijacking and China aiming to discuss core political issues.

But "it's not hard to conceive of a satisfactory outcome", such as a confederation between Taiwan and China in which Taiwan would have UN membership, one US official said.

Although US policy now opposes such membership, officials said they would accept any peaceful agreement worked by the parties.

The problem with any political solution now is that the level of distrust between the two is so great, the US official said.

For the issue to be resolved peacefully, Beijing must undertake a campaign to build confidence with Taiwan and can no longer just assert "Taiwan is a lost province and we must reclaim it", he added.

The Chinese army is hardline on Taiwan but how much it restricts the political leadership's ability to manoeuvre is unclear.

Washington is encouraging increased contacts with the US military so China's army feels "it has a stake in US-China relations," one official said.

The new China study, published by the Pentagon's National Defence University (NDU), recommended appointment of a special envoy for China-Taiwan relations to forestall any conflict.

But at least some officials seem disinclined.

"There is wisdom in the United States staying out of this and letting them work it out themselves," one official said.

A US role might indicate to Taiwan that "we're pressuring them to sell out for our convenience."

S. Korea to return sub crew bodies

SEOUL (Reuters) – The UN Command and South Korea yesterday agreed to repatriate the remains of nine North Koreans found dead in a northern submarine captured last week in southern waters.

The agreement was reached in talks at the rank of colonel between the UN Command and North Korea in the UN truce village of Panmunjom, a UNC statement said.

It said the repatriation ceremony would be held on Friday in Panmunjom.

An earlier UNC statement said it presented the results of its investigation to the North Koreans, which concluded the crew of the North Korean submarine had committed suicide.

"After extensive discussion and the display of substantial evidence, the KPA [North Korean People's Army] offered no objection to this position," it said.

Other issues, such as acknowledgement of the incident by the North, punishment of those responsible and assurances it would not reoccur, would be discussed by generals from both sides at another meeting, the statement said.

South Korean President Kim Dae-jung said on Monday the 70-ton "Yugo-class" submarine, discovered foundering at sea entangled in fishing nets on June 22, had violated the armistice agreement which ended hostilities in the 1950-53 Korean War.

Kim, however, has sought to downplay the incident as part of his "sunshine" policy toward the North.

"North Korea is sensitive about an exchange of separated family members [in the Korean war] but is supportive of tourism and economic cooperation measures," a presidential statement quoted Kim as saying yesterday.

The South Korean navy discovered the bullet-riddled bodies of the nine North Korean occupants of the midget submarine after it was towed into a South Korean port last Friday.

Four had been shot in the head and five had gunshot wounds on their bodies in a group suicide, Seoul has said.

The submarine was being moved to a larger port on South Korea's eastern coast for further inspection, a Defense Ministry official said.

The two Koreas are still technically at war, in the absence of a peace agreement to replace the armistice.

CNN retracts US nerve-gas story

By DAVID BAUDER

CNN yesterday retracted its story that the US military used deadly nerve gas during a Vietnam War-era mission in Laos to kill American defectors.

The news network said its internal investigation concluded that its joint report with *Time* magazine, disputed by "hundreds" of veterans and military officials, could not be supported.

"CNN alone bears responsibility for both the television reports and for the printed article in the June 15 issue of *Time* magazine," Tom Johnson, chairman of the CNN News Group, said in a statement read on CNN.

"We apologize to our viewers and to our colleagues at *Time* for this mistake. CNN owes a special apology to the personnel involved in Operation Tailwind, both the soldiers on the ground and the US Air Force pilots and the US Marine Corps helicopter pilots who were involved in this action."

CNN had hired attorney Floyd Abrams late last week to conduct an independent investigation into the charges, and made its statement today based on his report.

Johnson said reporters, producers and executives at CNN bear responsibility for the mistake, but his statement did not say what action would be taken against them.

The story proved a major embarrassment to CNN/USA President Richard Kaplan. Launching a series of newsmagazines called "NewsStand" was his top programming initiative, and he used the nerve gas story to attract attention to the series' premiere.

"We acknowledge serious faults in the use of sources who provided 'NewsStand' with the original reports and therefore retract the Tailwind story," Johnson said in his statement.

Almost immediately after it was aired, military experts began disputing the contention that the lethal nerve gas sarin was used on a Laotian village in 1970, as part of a secret mission to kill American defectors.

Defense Secretary William Cohen ordered an investigation into the charges, but said there was no evidence that the gas was ever used. (AP)

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Dig for a compromise

Science and religion have never been allies, though they should be. Religious authorities bitterly fought the ideas of Galileo, Copernicus, and Darwin, among others. But those who are most serious about science or religion share an acute appreciation of the mysteries of the universe, each from their own perspective.

In Israel, religion and archeology share a practical interest in the very thing they are fighting most bitterly about: the preservation of ancient graves.

In recent weeks, the United Torah Judaism party has threatened a coalition crisis over the issue of archeological digs, a small percentage of which discover human graves. UTJ, a haredi party, is reportedly demanding that Antiquities Authority chief Amir Drori be replaced before his term is up in two years. The rumored candidate to replace him is not an archeologist, but the mayor of Tiberias, Yossi Peretz.

In addition, UTJ is demanding that the new members of the Archeology Council, whose membership is due to be replaced, be sympathetic to the haredi position on digs at grave sites.

All of this, if it were to happen, is an unacceptable politicization of archeology. What is ironic is that archeology is a primary means by which Israel confirms its ancient connections to the land, connections that a critical portion of the government is intent on preserving.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu himself repeatedly pledges his fidelity to this heritage, proclaiming that it is the "rock of our existence." But even if the compromising of archeology were not replete with deep religious and national implications, the politicization of any branch of science would be a stain on the nation.

Even from a religious perspective, the extreme stance of the UTJ is outside any religious consensus. The Chief Rabbinate is not noticeably supportive of the UTJ position, nor are the other haredi parties. A number of halachic scholars argue that under Jewish law, graves be moved if necessary to accommodate expansion of a city, or building a road.

Nor is this struggle being fought solely on the political level. Two months ago, unknown elements burned the offices of the Antiquities Authority in Nahalal. Over NIS 1 million shekels' worth of damage was caused and documentation of archeological findings was lost. Archeologists have had their tires slashed and their lives threatened.

In addition, the threat of violence has shut down or delayed numerous building projects, costing the state millions of shekels and causing thousands of Israelis, such as the residents of northern Jerusalem who are still waiting for their new road, serious inconvenience.

The use of violent intimidation by haredi elements should be met with enforcement of the law, not political appeasement. No one is suggesting that archeology not be sensitive to religious concerns. But the appropriate respect for religion should not be defined by the most extreme elements – who in any case can never be satisfied – but by religious authorities who share the traditional recognition for the need to reconcile the needs of the living with respect for the dead.

Rather than allowing the conflicts between archeologists and religious groups to continue, and become meat for periodic political crises, an agreement should be sought that both side can live with. The Neeman Commission, created to resolve the controversy over the conversion bill, was an example of such an attempt. Though the Neeman Commission recommendations have not been fully accepted by either side of the controversy, it did produce a compromise that was acceptable to a large Knesset majority and to large constituencies on both sides.

There is potential for a panel of rabbis and archeologists to develop solutions that do not violate Jewish law or unduly impinge on science and development. No solution will be acceptable to violent extremists, but satisfying them should not be the objective.

Religious leaders and archeologists have a common interest in saving graves from unscrupulous developers who would simply bulldoze through ancient remains rather than subject themselves to expensive delays. It is time to appoint an independent commission that will remove the issue from the political arena, and build upon the potential for an alliance in an area that has been fraught with conflict.

Foot-in-mouth epidemic

MOSHE ARENS

Those Israelis who have been glued to their televisions watching the World Cup may not be fully aware that Israeli politicians have been hit by an epidemic of "foot-in-mouth" disease. The summer heat is evidently taking its toll.

It began with our prime minister. For no apparent reason, he started promoting a national referendum on the second (or is it the first, or maybe *the third?*) withdrawal from areas in Judea and Samaria.

No matter that no one, including members of the government, knows exactly where this projected withdrawal is supposed to take place, or the fact that Israel has never held a national referendum and does not have the necessary legal framework in place, or that the subject matter is patently inappropriate for a national referendum, the trial balloon was pushed into the headlines.

Our politicians, both in the coalition and opposition, as well as many self-appointed experts, had a field day raising the balloon to new heights or trying to shoot it down. And then it disappeared almost as suddenly as it had appeared.

Immediately thereafter, our prime minister launched the second trial balloon. This time it was a call for reconvening the Madrid Conference on peace in the Middle East.

There is no obvious reason for holding such a conference given the current state of negotiations with the Palestinian Authority, and it is clear that none of the participants in the original conference, except possibly Israel, would be prepared to attend. The proposal, nevertheless, provided an opportunity for our politicians to reminisce and speculate, to oppose and support the idea, before it evaporated in a matter of days.

Then came the president's turn. While paying a hospital visit to one of our soldiers wounded in southern Lebanon, he expressed his dissatisfaction with the government's policy in Lebanon and declared that he had his own ideas on how to improve the situation there.

Considering Ezer Weizman's impressive military background, his advice on the subject should be carefully considered by our defense minister, but why the public criticism of the government's policy? As he knows all too well, the presidency in Israel is essentially a ceremonial office, non-partisan in nature, that is supposed to draw its support from the entire nation.

But that was only a prelude for his coming blast. In well-orchestrated news conferences a few days later, he castigated the prime minister's handling of the negotiations with the Palestinians and called for early elections.

Early elections is the traditional call of the opposition. It has been Ehud Barak's message from the moment he became leader of the Labor Party, just as Binyamin Netanyahu called for early elections while he headed the Likud in opposition. Never before has an Israeli president joined the opposition's call for early elections. It is a flagrant violation of the unwritten rules that govern the president's functioning.

It is not only the heat that has thrown the Israeli political scene into disarray

ALL this may only be the beginning, as we have four more blistering months ahead of us. But obviously it is not only the heat that has thrown the Israeli political scene into disarray.

Nor is it only the personalities of our president and prime minister.

A fundamental flaw was injected into our political system with the introduction of the law for the direct election of the prime minister. What we are witnessing is only a portent of far worse things to come.

The law, which makes it almost impossible for the Knesset to unseat the prime minister during his four-year tenure, has essentially eliminated the Knesset's influence on national policy. The boost given by the law to the narrow-interest parties has, in addition, decreased the number of Knesset members representing parties with a national agenda.

By weakening the representation of the two large parties (the Likud has only 22 MKs) it has forced the prime minister into an unprecedented eight-party coalition in which his own party does not command a majority, and thus has seriously limited his freedom of action.

While drastically reducing his accountability to the Knesset as well as to his own party, the new law has nevertheless seriously impaired his ability to lead the nation on issues of national importance. At the same time, the direct election of the premier has deprived the president of the only non-ceremonial function invested in his office for the past 48 years, overseeing the process of the formation of the coalition that, with the consent of the Knesset, governs the country.

This dysfunctional system has left almost everybody on the political scene angry and frustrated. Everybody, including our president, seems to be at the end of their tether.

If the law for the direct election of the prime minister is not revoked before the next election, things are likely to get considerably worse. This may very well be the best reason for not holding elections now, before the law has been revoked.

Dry Bones



Take rabbis out of politics

GERALD M. STEINBERG

The decision on whether to proceed with the Oslo process will apparently not be determined by a referendum. Rather, the central questions of further redeployment and Palestinian compliance will be decided by a small group of rabbis.

In the past few weeks, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has held many meetings with the "spiritual leaders" of the National Religious Party, Shas and Agudat Yisrael. This is not the result of a religious reawakening on the part of Netanyahu, but rather an effort to ensure that his government can survive the next interim agreement with the Palestinians.

The basic issue is not whether the redeployment is good or bad for Israeli security, but rather how this complex and critical decision should be made.

Even those who view the Oslo process as a failure and a danger to national survival should be concerned about the central role of the clergy. The fate of the government and the negotiations should not be determined by religious leaders whose expertise lies in an entirely different sphere.

The settling of the Land of Israel is an important religious tenet, but the conditions and timing are inherently political, and the implications go far beyond halachic principles. Rabbis are trained to interpret religious law, but they have no credentials for involvement in issues of diplomatic and foreign policy, security, and relations with the United States.

This situation is a reflection of the continuing growth of religious leaders in political and strategic decision making. Historically, particularly during the period of the Diaspora, rabbis confined themselves to the sphere of religious law. The lay leadership, usually the wealthier members of the community with experience in dealing with the non-Jewish world, were responsible for external affairs. The rabbis were employees of the communities, and they recognized the limits of their authority and competence.

Even those who view Oslo as a failure should be concerned about the central role of the clergy

However, about 100 years ago, this balance and separation of powers began to change. As a result of the combination of political Zionism and the economic crises and pogroms that swept Eastern Europe, the lay leadership lost power and the political role of the rabbinate began to grow.

The community rabbis lost power to the more isolated and less worldly yeshiva rabbis. In the effort to hold onto their power, haredi leaders' founded anti-Zionist political parties, such as Agudat Yisrael.

They also created a doctrine known as *daat Torah* in the attempt to justify their claim to a central role in political issues. According to this concept, the overall religious knowledge and pious behavior of the rabbis qualifies them to make rulings that are unconnected with their expertise in religious law and ritual.

The use of *daat Torah* to justify political decisions has been a disaster, particularly prior to the Holocaust, when many hassidic rabbis told their followers not to leave Europe. Nevertheless, as the Jewish masses, like others, attempted to escape the pressures of modernity, the political role of the rabbinate has continued and even grown. This phenomenon extended to Shas, where Rabbi Ovadia Yosef is the primary authority on all issues and, more recently, to the National Religious Party.

UNTIL now, the modern-Orthodox NRP maintained a distinction between political and religious decisions and authority, and did not allow its rabbis to become involved in foreign and defense policies.

However, after Zevulun Hammer's death, the new NRP leadership, including Education Minister Yitzhak Levy, has encouraged ex-chief rabbis Mordechai Eliahu and Avraham Shapira to enter the political sphere.

This may be a reflection of the confluence of the right-wing views of many of the political leaders, such as Levy, Hanan Porat and Avner Shaki, and of the rabbis. Ironically, the growth of the political role of the rabbinate comes at a time when many religious (non-haredi) Israelis are critical of this process.

Minister of Finance Yaakov Neeman and MK Alex Lubotzky (Third Way), both of whom are religious, are leading the efforts to remove the issue of conversion from the political control of the rabbinate. Support for the Meimad movement, which was essentially founded to remove religious factors and personalities from the political realm, is increasing.

Thus, Netanyahu erred both substantively and politically when he invited the "spiritual leaders" of the NRP and Shas to discuss fundamental issues of security and defense. The issues at stake go beyond the questions of redeployment or conversion.

The central requirement is the need to restore the balance between religious and political leadership, and to end the role of rabbis in the political sphere. This does not require the type of radical secularization and wholesale cultural deprivation that characterized the Labor Zionist movement. Rather, if rabbis confine their activities to their areas of competence, by teaching and addressing issues in religious law and ritual, this will improve the quality of both politics and religious practice.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SHOOTING THE MESSENGER

Sir, – Jews in Ethiopia face preventable catastrophe and the institutions of world Jewry are standing by making excuses – or taking cheap shots at the messengers as in Micha Feldman's "Playing with Ethiopian fire," (June 29). More frightening is that the current leaders of the Jewish Agency, the Joint Distribution Committee and the Israeli government are seeking to cover up their own, as yet unpublished, terrifying reports of this unfolding tragedy.

Recently, a number of fact-finding missions associated with Ethiopian advocacy groups came back with startling evidence, first-hand stories, photographs and videos of the crisis.

Furthermore, in late April, representatives of the Interior Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office reported on the suffering of the Jews in the city of Gondar, the burning of Jewish homes in the northern villages and the rapidly deteriorating health conditions of the community.

Representatives of the Joint who traveled last week to Gondar reportedly have also confirmed the wide-spread violence against the Jews and the terrible health conditions in Gondar and for the 6,500 languishing in Addis. Yet these reports have been kept from Knesset members, and the boards of the Jewish Agency and the Joint.

Feldman writes of the remaining Jews in Ethiopia that "if a threat to their security arises – if Abramowitz's doomsday scenario actually materializes –there is no question that JDC, the Jewish Agency and the government of Israel will act..."

How many more fact-finding reports must be written (and suppressed), before Feldman and others acknowledge that indeed the time to act is now?

YOSEF I. ABRAMOWITZ

Newton, MA.

WHO DO WE TRUST?

Sir, – We would be grateful to US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright for letting us know the truth about the administration's adherence, or rather lack of it, to promises about our security and future.

We are told to accept at face value a letter sent by Mr. Arafat to President Clinton on the cancellation of the Palestinian Covenant calling for the gradual destruction of Israel. This, despite the fact that the commission set up by the PA over three years ago to suggest what to eliminate from the covenant and which was to report back "within six months" has not yet issued its report. Neither has there been a special meeting of the PLO to annul those clauses.

On the other hand, President Clinton is pressuring Israel to withdraw from at least 13 percent of Judea and Samaria. Despite a *letter* by his former secretary of state, Warren Christopher, saying that Israel, and Israel alone, is to determine the size of withdrawal and to decide on its security needs.

Does this mean that the signature of Mr. Arafat is more trustworthy than Mr. Christopher's?

EMANUEL FISCHER

Jerusalem.

PRESIDENT OF THE PALESTINIANS

Sir, - Can Ezer Weizman be my president? By stressing that the peace process is stalled only because Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has not executed the redeployment, and therefore the Palestinians cannot be blamed for the present stalemate, he is siding with their point of view.

As our president, who has no executive power, he is supposed to be a figurehead representing the entire nation. This is not the case in the present situation.

He may as well be the president of the Palestinians, as I am sure they will all accept his point of view.

PROF. D. SHALTIEL

Jerusalem.

WHAT THIS COUNTRY NEEDS

Sir, – Haredim boycott Egged regarding an ad campaign that they find offensive and the Left cries "religious coercion!" Last time I checked, the right to choose a company for whatever reason (legitimate or not) was called free market capitalism and considered a cornerstone of basic democracy.

Three quarters of a million haredim are a formidable market force and tailoring advertisements to them (or, at the very least, not offending them) is no more religious coercion than Mizrahi jeans' decision to use a Hassidic guitarist on their posters in NY.

I don't recall seeing any "Am Hofshi" demonstrations when liberal pundits called for a boycott of goods produced by Jews living in the West Bank. You know what this country needs? An intelligent and logically left wing!

DR. BARUCH STERMAN

Efrat.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On July 3, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported that the Immigration Department of the Zionist Organization in Berlin was flooded with thousands of applications for immigration certificates to Palestine, which it could not satisfy due to an inadequate number of permits.

25 years ago: On July 3, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that defense minister Moshe Dayan blamed Arab terrorists for the murder of Israel's military attache in Washington, Yosef Alon, and said Israel would continue to strike against Arab terrorists and wipe them out everywhere.

Alexander Zvielli

Antisemitism without antisemites

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

When otherwise sane and intelligent people affirm nonsense, it behooves us to inquire into the reason. Falling into that category is the recent finding by the American Jewish Committee that American Jews believe antisemitism is a greater threat than intermarriage by a margin of 57% to 38%.

In order to reach that conclusion, American Jews have to ignore the evidence in front of their eyes to a startling degree.

And they do. In a 1985 survey of Jews in Northern California, for instance, a full third expressed the belief that non-Jews would not vote for a Jewish candidate for Congress. At that time, all three Congressmen from the area were Jewish. As Leonard Dinerstein concluded in his 1994 work *Anti-Semitism in America*: "Today antisemitism in the United States is neither virulent nor growing. It is not a powerful social or political force. [It] has declined in potency and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future."

But if Poland has proven that antisemitism can persist even in the absence of Jews, says *National Review* literary editor David Klinghoffer, so America today proves that antisemitism persists in the minds of Jews even in the absence of antisemites.

At the same time, intermarriage – about which only a little more than a third of American Jews are concerned – coupled with low fertility rates, is projected to reduce American Jewry to between one-third and one-sixth of its present size within two generations.

The professed fear of resurgent antisemitism goes hand in hand with the elevation of the Holocaust to the defining element in Jewish self-identity.

All surveys of American Jewry place the Holocaust way ahead of any other factor in Jewish self-identity. Between 75% and 85% of American Jews rate the Holocaust as a very important factor in their sense of themselves as Jews, far higher than belief in God, Torah or Israel.

When they think of themselves as Jews, then, American Jews overwhelmingly identify themselves as victims. Their sense of themselves as Jews is purely negative, unless one thinks that a history of persecution tells us something fundamental about the victim. For them, Jews are nothing more than a social construct of antisemites, an occasion for the fevered conspiracy theories of Jew-haters.

And indeed Judaism is devoid of positive content for most American Jews.

Nearly 60 percent of Americans, according to a 1989 Gallup study of religiosity in America, view religion as very important in their lives; only 14% say that it is not at all important. Among Jews, however, the figures are nearly reversed: 30% say that religion is important; 35% that it is of no importance.

While American Jews claim to be concerned about antisemitism, they do not act upon those fears, apart from the occasional check in response to a scare letter from the Anti-Defamation League or some other Jewish defense group.

But if American Jews are, in their heart of hearts, not really that scared of resurgent antisemitism, why do they insist on keeping the spectre of antisemitism alive? Why do they react so strongly to every crackpot Holocaust denier who would deny them their status as history's champion victims?

THE answer is that antisemitism is a convenient balm for the pangs of conscience. Antisemites, even imagined ones, provide confirmation that one is a proud, loyal Jew, linked to all those other Jews throughout history, who knew too well what real Jew-hatred was. To paraphrase Descartes: I am hated, therefore I am. If Hitler would have killed my grandchild, let no one deny that my grandchild is Jewish.

It is more convenient to focus on what others do to us, or want to do, than to consider what we are doing to ourselves. Far easier to conjure up imaginary Hitlers than to wonder whether we have failed when our children intermarry and show little interest in even the vague ethnic identity with which we provided them.

As long as we can cite the names of relatives killed by the Nazis, we assure ourselves that our Jewish bona fides are intact, and we are indeed proper heirs to two thousand years of victimhood.

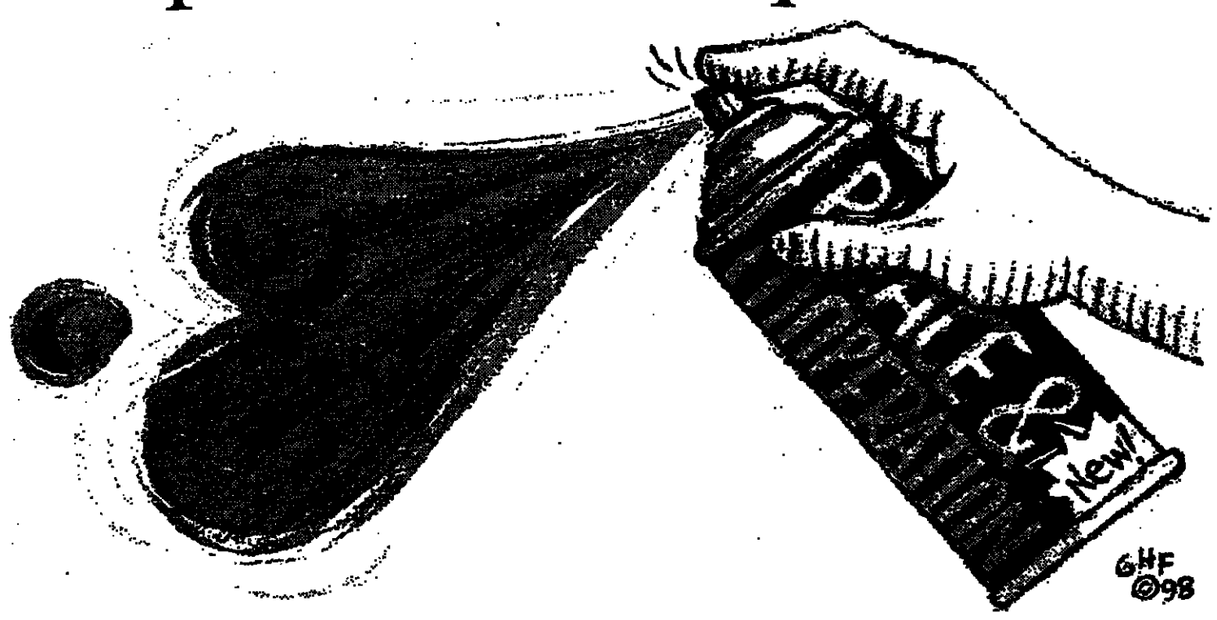
We focus on the Holocaust as the defining event in Jewish history without even asking ourselves the real question: What power did our ancestors find in their Judaism that enabled them to withstand and survive all the Torquemadas, Chmelnickis and Hitlers?

To ask that question would force us to admit that Judaism has content and is not defined by our enemies. That admission would, in turn, force us to confront the possibility that we have failed our ancestors by not even inquiring into the source of their spiritual strength.

Jewish "worry" about antisemitism would be funny but for the deeper tragedy it seeks to mask. Jews unable to define themselves except in terms of the hatred of others. By lulling American Jews into thinking of themselves as good Jews, even as they make peace with skyrocketing intermarriage and their own disappearance, the illusion of widespread antisemitism ensures the continuation of those trends.

The politics of mosquitos

DAVID NEWMAN



The mosquitos have returned to Meitar, as they do every summer. The nets on the windows are insufficient. Somehow, these troublesome insects manage to get in through the small holes and cracks and make life unbearable. It becomes impossible to sleep, and all the anti-mosquito contraptions, creams and repellents are unable to put an end to the misery.

The local government authority makes its own feeble attempt at spraying the area in an effort to eradicate the nesting areas.

But it is either unable, or unwilling, to invest in the resources needed to deal comprehensively with the problem.

What should have been just a minor nuisance, becomes a factor affecting the quality of life in this otherwise pleasant, middle-class suburban community. People in the street are irritable, they lack sleep, they are unable to sit out on their porches to crack sunflower seeds, read a book or watch the World Cup. They become prisoners in their own homes, and even there are unable to escape the mosquito irritant.

Odd as it may sound, the mosquitos may yet be the downfall of the incumbent mayor and his local authority in November's municipal elections. The general feeling amongst the public is that this should be a top priority for the local authority and that for as long as the irritant remains, and returns each year, the municipality is not doing its work properly.

The local mayor argues that the problem is not his doing. It is a problem which can only be dealt with properly when the peace process gets back on track. After all, he argues, the source of the mosquitos is in the polluted effluents flowing down Wadi Hebron, originating in the towns and villages of the West Bank.

A delegation of local residents recently met with Hebron's mayor to discuss the problem.

The atmosphere was positive. Immediate solutions may not have been found, but there was a readiness to seek solutions, if only because this, and similar problems of daily life, affect both sets of residents – Palestinians and Israelis alike.

Mosquitos do not differentiate between Jewish and Arab blood, just as the course of the wadi which flows from Hebron does not miraculously stop at the former "Green Line" boundary.

Peace and cooperation is about the small things in life, such as mosquitos

PEACE and conflict resolution is about the small things in life, such as mosquitos. While we focus on the big issues, the redeployment, the establishment of a Palestinian state, the prevention of terrorism and the grand signings of peace treaties on the White House lawn, we often forget that for most of us, the real test of peace is in the small things which affect our daily lives.

But let's not be naive. The small things are, obviously, affected by the big ones.

The present government's continued attempts to bury the peace process, the renewed mistrust which has been created by the respective political leaderships, and the unwillingness to discuss substantial issues affecting the lives of both peoples – rather than the irrelevance of 9 or 13 percent – filters down to the small things.

The problems of effluents, pollutants and mosquitos will not be dealt with as long as the political leaders are no longer discussing the big issues.

The message from the top is clear. The "Other" remains an enemy, not a peace partner, he/she is not to be trusted, he/she simply wants to continue to terrorize us/take our land (delete as appropriate), they want to continue to worsen our quality of life.

Creating a mosquito problem is, according to this argument, just one more tactic in their war of attrition, designed to make life unbearable for our families.

Of course, depending on which side of the political fence you are, it is always the fault of the "Other". It is unthinkable that Israelis should feel that they create conditions which make the lives of the Palestinians, shut up in their small autonomy ghettos and deprived of economic opportunities and subject to daily settler harassments, unbearable.

It is equally unthinkable to most Palestinians that untreated sewage and effluent disposal can really be a cause of political animosity, and that Israel, with its mighty economy and technology, is unable to deal adequately with this problem. If mosquitos are allowed to disrupt the daily life patterns of so many, then it is obviously because Israel is interested in highlighting this problem as a means of blaming the Palestinians for everything.

The answer is to realize that long-term peace, as contrasted with short-term resolution of conflicts and cessation of violence, is measured by the small things in life. By the ability of two peoples to come together and resolve the multitude of daily problems which affect the life patterns of men, women and children. The boring things in life.

If, and when, we ever get to this stage, we will, hopefully, live in a mosquito-free environment.

Middle Israel

AMOTZ ASA-EL

Ezer ke'negdo

With the war of independence nearly over, a bunch of action-thirsty pilots from Israel's nascent air force – including 24-year-old Ezer Weizman – took off seeking prey, ultimately downing five RAF fighter planes well beyond Israeli air space.

Recounting years later that act of utter irresponsibility – the remains of the British air craft had to be dragged from the Sinai into Israel, so as to create the impression they had invaded Israeli air space – the future peace hero explained what drove him: "The war was breathing its last gasps and I was missing out on the celebration."

Well, he certainly didn't miss out on this week's celebration of personal vendetta, institutional strife and peace mongering.

If anything, half a century later Ezer has proven that – like an old Bourbon – he has forgotten nothing and learned nothing; if there's action he must be there, and if there isn't any he might as well create it, to hell with the repercussions.

Weizman and Netanyahu must realize that theirs is not a private relationship, and this country is in no position to afford their melodramatic ups and downs

Ezer's latest whim is alarming from any one of its many aspects.

On the personal side, while any child can expect the two egos at stake to clash and thunder, the PM and president must know that theirs is not a private relationship, and that we're in no position to afford their melodramatic ups and downs.

Few, including many of Netanyahu's followers, would dispute Weizman's charges that the premier has misled him with sugary briefings about the state of the peace process and abused the president by dispatching him on fake peace missions to a host of foreign leaders.

But Weizman himself conceded in his preposterous TV appearances this week that he was angry at the premier for actively lobbying against his reappointment.

This column couldn't sympathize more with that sentiment, as it indeed did last spring when Netanyahu tried to unseat Weizman and replace the former air force commander and defense minister with a provincial mayor.

Yet while it is legitimate, human, and maybe even inevitable for Weizman to hold a grudge as a consequence of all this, proceeding from there to a call for early elections is an entirely different, and downright unacceptable, matter.

In the aftermath of this week's shameful bickering we know what we already knew: that Bibi is short on tact, and Ezer on poise.

Had he been tactful, the prime minister would have been careful not to hurt the president's feelings. And had Ezer not been a hot head, he would have privately told Bibi – after those ill-conceived missions to Mubarak and Arafat – that he refuses to play fig leaf for the government's peace inaction.

But then, had Weizman been a cool calculator he wouldn't have been the old Ezer whom Levi Eshkol chose not to crown as chief of staff because he was "naughty," or the Weizman who tried to unseat the very Menachem Begin who had given him a Knesset seat and a cabinet portfolio.

Institutionally, many saw Weizman's move as a symptom of a new era where a system of checks and balances had been obliterated by its direct-election successor.

That's nonsense.

In 1982, then-president Yitzhak Navon forced a reluctant Begin to appoint a commission of inquiry after the Sabra and Shatila massacres. The Knesset, then as now, wouldn't stand up to a politically blind cabinet.

If the Knesset is to be fashioned as a strong premier's brake, then its members ought to be forbidden, by law, to serve in the government. That's when our lawmakers will cease to spend their time jockeying for executive positions and begin instead to focus on legislating laws and checking the prime minister.

The question, therefore, is not who will check and what will balance, but why the president refuses to acknowledge that he was elected by the Knesset to fulfill a ceremonial office, and not by the public to run the country.

Indeed, the president's outburst was zero percent check and balance, 90 percent personal, and 10 percent peace process. If anything, it is the president who now needs to be checked.

Surely, that peace related 10 percent is also out there.

For Netanyahu to think that his periodic Lebanon-first, Madrid II or advisory-referendum hook shots can work forever is a sad reminder of how programatically disarmed he assumed office.

In this regard Weizman, who is genuinely eager to see Netanyahu deliver on his peace-and-security election promises, has a point.

However, to be more effective – and true to the consensual raison d'etre of his task – Weizman would do better reminding Netanyahu of his festive post-election promise to be "everyone's prime minister," than to wage wars that undermine the very foundations of our democratic structure.

To be meaningful, this commitment must result in a pan-Israeli dialogue, i.e. a Likud-Labor coalition which would jointly concoct our next peace deal, lest the fanatics among us rip apart the hard-won state our parents have bequeathed to us.

For Bibi to play Right and Ezer Left is a non-starter; it also means that both men, while in disagreement on so many things, are still equally predictable, unimaginative, and shortsighted ego-maniacs.

When God noticed that Adam had become lonely he created his *Ezer ke'negdo*, that "helpmeet" which in some ways is man's opposite and in others his complement. The Adam-Eve relationship was, and remains, essentially governed by biology. The Ezer-Bibi one, however, is about chemistry; in case they prove insoluble, the substances of this experiment might well be dumped out of the lab.

In search of a defense doctrine

MARK A. HELLER

It is regrettable when the right thing is done for the wrong reason, but still worse if the right thing is not done at all. That is the silver lining in the cloud of the angry exchange this week between Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilna'i and the defense establishment.

Vilna'i argued that Israel's security doctrine has not kept up with the changing nature of the threat. The Defense Ministry retorted that it is fully alive to the problem and that the security doctrine is, in fact, undergoing a constant and far-reaching process of review.

Much of the media's interest in this exchange can be attributed to the suspicion that it is merely a reflection of Vilna'i's resentment at being passed over for the job of chief-of-general-staff and of the long-standing personal differences between Vilna'i and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

But the truth is that Vilna'i focused attention on a problem that is critical to the security of the country – the political and social context in which defense policy is elaborated. This problem has never been properly addressed in the sense of producing a formal, comprehensive doctrine. Israel is one of the few advanced countries that does not issue a periodic posture statement or "White Paper."

This is not to say that there was no doctrine. Vilna'i himself correctly noted that that has always been an unwritten doctrine, based on what he called the "holy trinity" of deterrence, early warning, and achieving a quick and decisive military outcome (preferably on the territory of the enemy).

These three components subsumed a vast range of assumptions about the basic parameters of national security: the identity of the enemy, the nature of the threat he posed, the regional and international political constellation, the state of technology, the human and material resources available to Israel and their optimal allocation among different needs, even the geographical contours of any future confrontation.

Many of these assumptions were not made by the military echelon; they were essentially stipulated by the political leadership, and especially by the civilian font of Israeli security doctrine, David Ben-Gurion. It was Ben-Gurion and his disciples, for example, who determined that the bulk of Israel's military force would be based on reservists, the Israel would pursue a policy of alliances with the "periphery" of the Middle East, that Israel would always seek to ensure the support of at least one great power, and that Israel would develop cutting-edge military technology and non-conventional capabilities.

But even with coherent political guidance and a fairly stable (if hostile) regional context, many elements of basic doctrine, including war aims and concepts of preventive and preemptive war, remained ambiguous, and without greater clarity on these issues; the criteria for a host of unavoidable tradeoffs – regular versus reserve forces, conventional versus non-conventional forces, training versus operational missions, current readiness versus future preparedness, defensive versus offensive capabilities, self-reliance versus imports – were never made explicit.

Slogans are no longer enough

In fact, total rationality in decision-making can never be achieved, and a certain degree of improvisation or muddling through is inevitable under the best of circumstances.

BUT the challenge of rational planning becomes much more daunting when the spectrum of threats increases, the pace of technological change accelerates, the social basis of the defense effort becomes more complicated, and the political context of national security is confused or subverted. And that is precisely what is happening in recent years, and particularly in the last two years.

The implications of technological change are not easily understood, but certain things are clear. For example, the spread of long-range delivery systems and weapons of mass destruction collapse the traditional distinction between front and rear, and rapid advances in sensoring and communication technologies create an unsatisfied demand in the armed forces for technically-trained personnel and increasingly professional leadership.

But even these "technical" challenges require clearer decisions by the political leadership, ranging from the foundations of military strategy (first strike, assured second strike, the mix of active and passive defenses) to decisions about the emphases in, and budgetary allocations to the educational system.

Still more problematic is the political context of security. Several years ago, the defense establishment actually did make considerable progress on a long-term review of force structure, Mirkam-2000, based on the assumption that a viable peace process, even if did not produce quick results, would ensure the country several years of relative calm, during which it could pursue the changes required by technological and political developments and the anticipated shape and character of Arab-Israeli relations in the next century.

But many of the assumptions of that review quickly became outdated following the last elections. Is there any sense now that Israel will reach peace agreements with the Palestinians, Syria and Lebanon in order to entrench the peace with Egypt and Jordan, permit a rapprochement with other Arab states, and eliminate the major pretext or proximate cause for confrontation with Iraq and Iran?

If so, what will be the geographical shape of those peace agreements? Right now, the IDF doesn't even know if, for how long, and in what climate it will have to secure the lines of the second redeployment. Will Israel's international relations continue to include the kind of intimate relations with the United States that contribute to its technological advantage (and its rivals' technological disadvantage)?

Will its budgetary priorities promote the kind of economic growth and manpower pool, and will its policies encourage the kind of relations with other countries, needed for high-quality military forces and viable military industries?

Above all, will its politics sustain the social solidarity and sense of national purpose needed for a continuing public commitment to the defense effort. These questions – and not a tunnel here or a hilltop there – touch the real essence of Israeli security in the next century.

Generals can and should ask them, but only political leaders can give the answers. And slogans are no longer enough.

Unholy alliance of religion and state

URI REGEV

"Each state party to the present covenant undertakes to respect and to ensure to all individuals ... the rights recognized in the present covenant, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status" – from Article 2 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

This month, the United Nations Human Rights Committee will hear Israel's first report on the implementation of this covenant. Israel's representatives are certainly going to face serious challenges when they address this country's conduct in the territories, minority rights, women's rights, and other issues.

Israel signed the covenant in August 1991 but while doing so, entered a reservation on matters of personal status. This reservation is designed to save Israel from criticism for imposing religious law in this area, primarily in matters of marriage and divorce.

While one can rationalize a reservation concerning the suspension of certain rights in a state of emergency, based on Israel's struggle for physical survival, the government report to the committee is candid enough to point out the role of "party politics" and "political expediency" as part of the foundation for this reservation.

Indeed the only survival issue that may be affected by this reservation is the survival of the different coalitions that had to sacrifice this critical area of human rights, and violate many other universally accepted principles of religious freedom.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the covenant on December 16, 1966, and to date, 140 countries have adopted it, including Israel. This covenant and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights are designed to transform the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights into binding rules of law.

It is precisely because Israel chose to enter a reservation in the arena of religion, as did some other countries such as Kuwait and Libya, that it is important to see which values and international obligations are recognized in this field.

Article 18 of the covenant declares: "Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice" and "to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching."

Article 23 ensures that: "the right of men and women...to marry and to found a family shall be recognized," and mandates participating countries to act to "ensure equality of rights and responsibilities of spouses as to marriage, during marriage, and its dissolution."

The meaning of the reservation, as everybody knows in Israel, is that the right to marry is not recognized and hundreds of thousands of citizens are denied marriage for religious reasons: more than 200,000 new immigrants from the former Soviet Union who are not halachicly Jewish; thousands whose names were entered into the rabbinate's black list having been declared mamzerim or otherwise ineligible for marriage; Reform, Conservative and Reconstructionist Jews by choice who made aliyah; kohanim wishing to marry divorcees or female converts; and others.

Moreover, both freedom of religion and freedom from religion are violated by the fact that civil as well as non-Orthodox religious marriage is not legally recognized. These are but few examples that arise when one takes full stock of the unholy alliance of religion and state in Israel.

IT is easy to understand why Israel entered its reservation concerning matters of personal status, but it is not at all clear that this reservation conforms to the principles of international law and the views of the Human Rights Committee.

Under principles of international law, reservations to multilateral agreements can be made, so long as they are not prohibited by the agreement itself or are not incompatible with the object and purpose of the agreement.

Clearly, Israel's reservation contradicts this principle. One should also note that Article 4(2) of the covenant, allows states to suspend their obligations under the covenant in times of public emergency. However, no infringement of religious freedom may be made under this emergency provision.

The committee also rejects government economic preferential treatment of predominant religion and any discrimination against adherents to other religions or non-believers.

True, the Israel's report makes reference to the delicate balance arising from Israel's being a "Jewish and democratic state." However, we know full well that in Israel, the clear majority of the public opposes religious coercion.

It should be remembered that the principles of the covenant correspond with the principles stated in Israel's own Declaration of Independence. To the extent that Israel is violating the vision of the covenant, we are also remiss in carrying out the dream and the promises of our own Declaration of Independence.

We should be especially mindful of these principles in this 50th anniversary year. The question we should be asking ourselves is: Is Israel genuinely committed to the principles of democracy and to international principles of human rights?

The United Nations Human Rights Committee will probably ask this question, as well.

The writer is a rabbi and attorney who serves as the executive director of the Movement for Progressive Judaism's Israel Religious Action Center.

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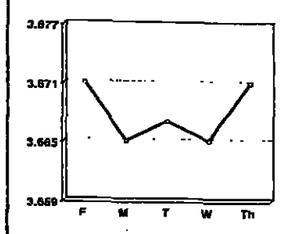
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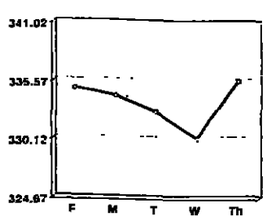
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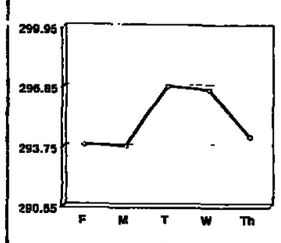
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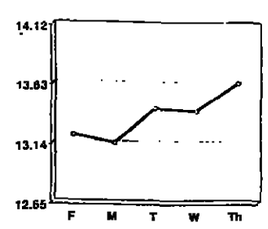
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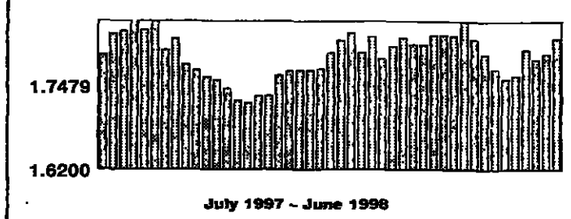
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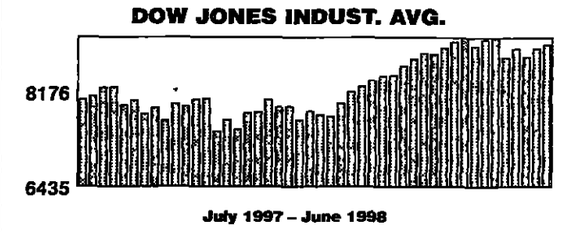


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BITS & BYTES

By NINA GILBERT

TTI Telecom signs marketing deal with IBM

TTI Telecom, the Petah Tikva-based maker of systems for controlling telecommunications networks, has signed a marketing cooperation agreement with IBM.

IBM will market TTI Telecom's Netrac network management system for wireline, wireless, and SS7 networks in combination with IBM solutions.

Netrac is an advanced telecommunication management and operation support platform that provides the tools necessary to help telecommunications supervisors and managers monitor, analyze and control telecommunication networks.

The Netrac system complements IBM's portfolio of network operations solutions. The IBM Global Telecommunications and Media Industries business unit offers a wide range of solutions for telecommunications, cable TV, wireless, broadcasting, publishing, advertising, sports, and entertainment industries, as well as Internet service providers in more than 160 countries. TTI Telecom, established in 1992, went public on the Nasdaq in 1996.

Tecnomatix receives $1m. order from Rover

Tecnomatix Technologies Ltd. has received a $1 million order from the Rover Group, the UK's leading automotive manufacturer, for its computer-aided production engineering (CAPE) software.

The Rover order is part of the group's "digital factory program" that will be implemented in the production engineering departments across all manufacturing divisions.

The company also said it has received a $1 million order from a major European heavy machinery company for its SIMPLE++ product for planning and optimization of complete factories. It also received a $1.5m. contract to provide implementation and maintenance services to a major US aerospace company, which is a long-standing customer.

The Herzliya-based company is the world leader in the CAPE market. The software enables computers to fully computerize the industrial process, from design to production.

Vectury boosts stake in Friendly Technologies

The Vectury venture capital fund, fully owned by Europe-Israel Ltd., has begun to exercise its option to boost its investment to $500,000 in Friendly Technologies, a two-year-old start-up which develops automatic help software for Internet users.

Europe Israel has a 40% stake in Friendly after making a $250,000 investment a year ago, and upon completing the investment it will hold 46%. The other owners are the company founders, including CEO and chairman Ilan Migdal.

The company's product, FriendlyWeb, has been sold thus far to Netvision for use by its customers. It enables novice Internet users to solve Internet-related problems automatically. It also enables providers to improve customer service without increasing expenses and manpower.

Europe Israel, a holding company active in hotel and commercial shopping center development, is boosting its high-tech investments as part of a strategic plan to diversify its holdings. EI is a public company controlled by Motti Zisser, via Control Centers.

TTR to sell anti-piracy products in Asia

TTR Inc., a maker of intellectual property rights protection products, has signed deals to market its products in Japan and South Korea. The deals will provide improved local marketing and sales support for TTR's DiscGuard and DiscAudit products to software publishers, content providers and disc manufacturing plants.

The company, established in 1994, is based in New York. Its research and development and production is carried out by its wholly-owned subsidiary in Kfar Sava, TTR Technologies. Last year the company made its initial public offering in New York.

In 1997, global losses for software piracy were an estimated $11.4b. DiscGuard is a technology for optical media authenticity verification that embeds a "digital signature" during mastering of CDs and DVDs. The technology enables the detection of unauthorized reproductions – without any change to the source code of the protected application.

Granit's sale to Shenef-Aran canceled

Borowitz group will pay $197m. for controlling stake in Sonol's parent

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Mashav Initiating and Development yesterday announced that it has decided to sell its holding in Granit Hacarmel to D.T. Borowitz Mozes Investments, after businessmen Moshe Shenef and Eli Aran, who won a tender for Granit last month, failed to meet the terms of the agreement.

In a statement, Mashav said that Shenef and Aran, who agreed last month to buy the controlling interest in Granit for $221.6m, failed to meet their obligations although they were given a 24-hour extension.

The company said it was willing to give the two another extension conditioned on additional guarantees but they decided against it.

Mashav decided not to issue a new tender for the sale of Granit, which is the parent company of Sonol Israel, the country's third largest petroleum company.

The announcement comes only one day after contractor Yitzhak Tshuva announced that an agreement to sell a 44 percent stake in Delek, the Israel Fuel Corp, Israel's second largest petroleum company, to US investor William Davidson was canceled.

The Borowitz Group has agreed to pay Mashav $197m. for its share of Granit, a price 7% lower than that offered by the Shenef-Aran Group.

The Borowitz Group, which is owned by Tami Mozes and her husband Dedi Borowitz, also agreed to buy the additional stake in Granit that was purchased earlier this week by Mashav in an attempt to prevent a battle for control.

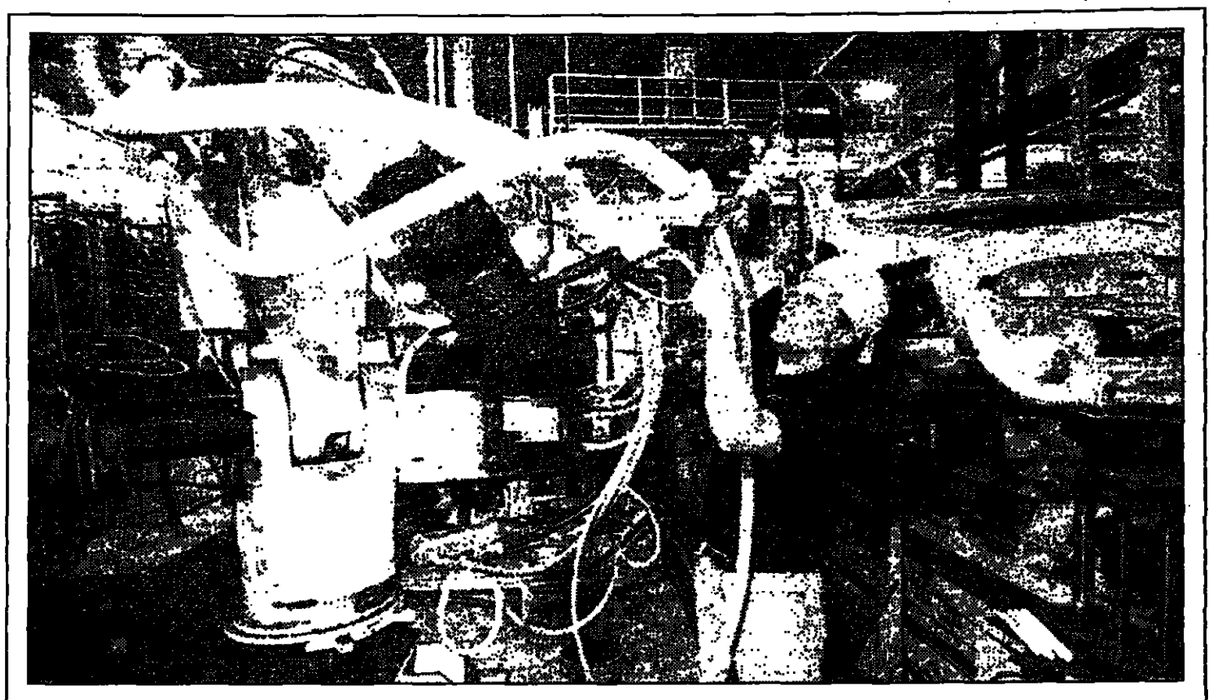
On Monday, Mashav raised its stake in Granit to 50.11% by acquiring a block of shares and convertible bonds for NIS 40 million.

The move came following reports that a group of shareholders, led by investor Shaike Landau and Bank Leumi, was trying to increase its stake in the company in an attempt to prevent the sale of Mashav's stake to the Shenef-Aran Group following reports that the two faced difficulties in financing the deal.

Mashav said that it is expected to report a capital gain of NIS 120m. from the sale.

Granit buys and imports raw petroleum and markets petroleum goods through Sonol. The company also owns Vulcan Batteries and sells other gases and oils through Granit Hacarmel Holding and Granite Hacarmel Properties.

The company reported net sales of NIS 1.839 billion last year, with net income at NIS 51m., which was NIS 1.1m. down on the 1996 figure.



Increasing efficiency

David Dennis works on the installation of a new robot, which will help productivity at Mercedes-Benz's M-Class plant in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The plant, which produces the M-Class All Activity Vehicle, is undergoing a major overhaul this week, during which the company is enlarging it and installing more advanced technology. (Reuters)

Budget deficit jumps to NIS 3.3b. in June

By DAVID HARRIS

The government posted a NIS 3.343 billion domestic budget deficit, excluding granted net credit, last month, according to initial Treasury figures published yesterday.

The deficit totaled NIS 2.924b. during the first six months of the year.

The Treasury said the high June figure was the result of seasonal interest payments, as well as payments to cover government employees' convalescence.

A similar pattern was witnessed in the first half last year, when there was a series of months in which surpluses were registered, followed by a NIS 2.937b. June deficit.

The government's overall deficit for June, excluding granted net credit, was NIS 4.098b. For the first six months, it was NIS 5.466b.

This means the government is still on course to meet its 1998 budget deficit target set at 2.4 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP), or NIS 9.192b., excluding granted net credit.

Last year's target was set at 2.8% of GDP, or NIS 9.744b.

The government's June budget balance included raising capital to the value of NIS 143 million net at home, offset by a net overseas outflow of NIS 254m., income from privatization of NIS 1.321b. and an NIS 2.830b. decline in bank reserves.

Since January, the government has registered a net overseas outflow of NIS 1.153b., raised NIS 62m. net at home, received NIS 2.24b. from company sales and has witnessed a NIS 3.475b. fall in bank reserves.

Foreign currency reserves totaled $21.323b. at the end of June, according to a statement from the Bank of Israel.

IFC: Israel likely to become developed market

By SCOTT SCHNIPPER

NEW YORK – (Bloomberg) Israel may be among the first markets to graduate from the International Finance Corporation's index of emerging markets and be regarded instead as a developed market, according to Peter Wall, a senior market analyst in the emerging market group of the IFC.

The IFC is the private-sector arm of the World Bank.

Israel is "one of those economies and market places that's really on the cusp of leaving the emerging markets category, and going into the more developed economy category," said Wall.

At the New York conference on Israel sponsored by Bank Hapoalim, Wall said the Israeli stock market must still be improved before it is regarded on a par with developed markets in North America, Europe and Asia.

Israel's markets are more advanced than most developing economies, but Wall said it's still likely to be years, rather than months, before the IFC drops it from its emerging market ranking. Other nations that may move up in rank are Argentina, Taiwan, Portugal and Greece.

Among the "imbalances" Wall cited in Israel, one of the most glaring is the absence of industries such as water or electric power utilities or transportation companies, including state-owned El Al Israel Airlines, from the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

"The degree and extent of both government ownership of listed companies and the cross holdings" among public companies are an obstacle to the development of Israel's markets, Wall said.

The government of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is addressing both problems, partly by selling state-owned companies and banks, as well as by encouraging companies to "unbundle" cross holdings in one another.

"Israel's capital market clearly is on the move out of that [emerging] category, and I think it's just a question of time," before it's regarded as developed, said Wall.

Until then, liquidity, or the ease of buying and selling shares, hinders Israeli markets. Last year's trading volume equaled 27 percent of the total value of all Israeli stocks. In the top 20 countries regarded as developed, about 65% of the outstanding stock turns over each year.

"It's not high by most developed country standards," said Wall.

The proportion of the economy represented by Israeli stocks is below that in developed countries. The market capitalization of all Israeli stocks equaled 46% of gross domestic product at the end of 1997, compared with 89% in more mature markets.

Other speakers at the Bank Hapoalim conference said investor concerns that politics in the Middle East are unpredictable damage sentiment toward the Israeli shekel on currency markets.

"If you look at the facts, that is probably not justified," said Gordon Eng, an emerging market currency trader at Chase Manhattan Bank.

Israel also needs to develop its bond market. Although few bonds are available that mature in more than one year, maturities will lengthen to five years soon as Israeli inflation falls closer to European levels, said Ron Gutler, head of Bankers Trust Capital Markets in Tel Aviv.

He also predicted increasing use of stock options and index futures.

Israel most resembles developed markets in its wealth, its highly educated populace, and the smooth functioning of its stock market, Wall said.

Moreover, the Israeli stock market is not too concentrated in a small number of stocks. The 10 largest public companies represent 39% of total market capitalization, less than the average 44% that prevails in developed markets.

Russia to seize Gazprom assets

By NATALIA OLYNEC and VLADIMIR TODRES

Russia will seize the property of OAO Gazprom, the world's largest gas company, and replace the board of directors after the company failed to pay all of its June tax bill, a government spokesman said.

The government also will annul an agreement that gave Gazprom Chairman Rem Vyakhirev the right to manage part of the state's 40.87 percent holding in the company, said Alexei Volin, a government spokesman.

"Gazprom had been dictating its own conditions — in part not paying taxes or paying as much as it wants," Volin said.

The government is trying to convince the International Monetary Fund it's serious about rapidly boosting tax collection to qualify for a loan of as much as $15 billion by targeting the business interests that have resisted paying taxes.

Russia says it needs the loan to regain investors' confidence, as it struggles to meet more than $1b. in debt payments a week.

Gazprom fell 12.5% to 33 cents on the Moscow Stock Exchange, and is down 35% in the past week. Gazprom is valued at about $25.2 billion, based on the price of the company's ADRs. (Bloomberg)

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d1_17426b

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In local currencies

TASE rises led by Koor's 4.4% jump

Tel Aviv

Israeli stocks rose for the first time in five days, led by Koor Industries after an agreement between its two major shareholders eased concern about a battle for control that could lead to share price swings.

Koor, Israel's largest exporter, advanced 4.4 percent to 449 shekels after Bank Hapoalim agreed on Wednesday to give Claridge Israel, the holding company's largest shareholder, the right of first refusal on a 20% stake in Koor. The bank must comply with a law requiring it to shed its holding in either Koor or holding company Clal Israel by May 31, 1999.

The agreement indicates a commitment by shareholders to "maintain stability of their holdings" and puts to rest "the fear of a shock to the share price" that could be caused by a control battle, said Assaf Behr, a trader at Egtar.

The Maof Index of 24 largest companies gained 1.65% to 335.57 while the Tel Aviv-100 Index of largest companies rose 1.37% to 321.50. Among the Maof companies, 20 issues rose, three dropped and one was unchanged.

Israeli stocks also benefited after Asian stocks rose on optimism that Japan will take measures to clean up its banking system.

The plan "creates a good atmosphere in world markets" and calms concerns about future volatility in equity prices, said Behr.

Across the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, IS 153.1 million of shares were traded, 34% less than the June average.

The lower volumes come as investors delay decisions to invest more money in Israeli stocks, preferring to wait for details about reforms in Asia and for an outcome on Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations, Behr said.

Asia

Asia Stocks rose in most Asian markets amid hopes that Japan will climb out of recession by taking direct control of the country's failed banks and restoring lending to the troubled region.

Japan's own benchmark index was mixed, however, as traders suggested the government's plan would be difficult to implement.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index climbed 3.7%, led by Hang Seng Bank Ltd. and property developers. With South Korea as an exception, stocks rose everywhere else in Asia.

The Japanese plan will bring failed banks under government supervision, dispose of their bad loans and maintain lending to sound borrowers. The aim is to eradicate non-performing loans of failed institutions in less than five years. Investors balked, though, hours before the plan was formally announced.

Banks such as Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank Ltd., which surged over the past four days, fell. Retailers such as Ito-Yokado Co. rose.

"People bought on rumors of bridge banks, tax cuts and intervention, and sold on the news that none is likely to happen to the great degree the market has been rallying on," said David Turner, a sales trader at Jardine Fleming Securities (Asia) Ltd.

The Nikkei 225 stock index gained 108.69 points, or 0.66%, to 16,471.58, its first consecutive seven-day rise in three years. The broader Topix index slipped 0.29 point, or 0.02%, to 1270.46.

Hong Kong stocks rose to a five-week high, as borrowing costs eased with optimism about the Japanese plan. (Bloomberg)

STOCKS



Maof 335.57 ▲ 1.65%
Dow Jones 9025 ▼ 0.26%
FTSE 5960.2 ▲ 0.68%
Nikkei 16471 ▲ 0.66%

Europe

The UK's FTSE 100 index of leading shares posted strong gains for the second day in a row yesterday, sparked by an overnight rally in New York and bolstered by soaring telecom stocks.

The FTSE 100 closed at 5,960.2, up 40.3 points, or 0.68 percent.

German shares lost steam in late trade to close slightly weaker after optimism about Japan's plan to restructure its banking system waned and US shares opened lower.

The DAX-30 index closed at 5,904.10, down 2.75 points, or 0.05%. In later screen-based trade the Xetra DAX index ended at 5,905.15, down 5.36 points, or 0.09%.

In Paris shares closed down slightly, despite being briefly perked up by market-friendly US jobs data, as Japan's banking reforms ultimately disappointed investors.

The CAC-40 index closed at 4,252.09, down 8.59 points, or 0.20% percent. (Reuters)

Wall Street

US stocks fell yesterday in subdued pre-holiday trading as investors took profits in the technology sector while renewed concerns about Japan held back the broader market.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 23.41 points to 9,025.26, a decline of 0.26 percent. The technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index took a harder hit, down 20.46 to 1,894.00, a 1.07% drop.

The stock market is closed today for the Independence Day holiday. The Standard & Poor's index of 500 stocks fell 2.14 to 1,146.42, while the small-cap Russell 2000 was off 1.54 to 458.31.

"The big tech stocks, after a big run up, are hitting the profit-taking wall a little bit and taking a breather," said Donald Selkin, chief market strategist at Joseph Gunnar & Co.

"There was also a little bit of disappointment with the Japanese bank plan, and it was shocking the yen got sold off so much.

Technology issues also were hurt by renewed concerns about profit warnings. The Dow was weighed down by a decline by AT&T Corp. as Wall Street remained sceptical about its planned multibillion-dollar merger with cable company Tele-Communications Inc.

Yen declines as Japan bank reforms disappoint

The dollar rose for the first time in four days, nearing 141 yen, after Japan failed to increase the amount it will spend to repair its banking system.

Japan said it will stick with its January plan to spend 13 trillion yen ($93 billion) to create a "bridge" bank that will lend to creditworthy clients of banks that fail.

Analysts said that's not enough to boost lending and revive economic growth, since Japanese banks have about 77 trillion yen of bad loans.

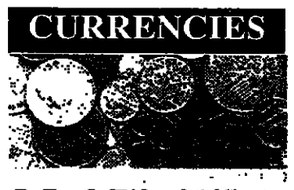
"Only 13 trillion has been earmarked to fund the bridge bank, which is not enough given bad loans are estimated to be in the region of 30 percent of gross domestic product," said James McKay, the chief currency strategist at Commonwealth Bank of Australia. "The Japanese appear very good at talking, but when it comes to action they fail to provide."

The dollar rose as high as 140.95 yen from 138.50 yen Wednesday, and was at 140.66. It rose to 1.8214 marks from 1.8180 marks Wednesday. Concern that Germany's biggest debtor, Russia, won't secure emergency loans to ease its financial crisis drove the German currency lower.

In January, Japan approved a 30 trillion-yen fund for banks, the world's largest-ever bank bailout, as part of a plan to kick-start the economy by easing the bad debts burdening Japanese banks and encourage new lending.

Of that package, 17 trillion yen is to protect depositors and 13 trillion yen to boost bank capital depleted by writing off bad loans. The government can take money from its general account when necessary up to the 30 trillion yen limit.

CURRENCIES



Dollar 3.6710 ▲ 0.16%
Basket 3.9041 ▲ 0.02%
Mark 2.0158 ▼ 0.1%
Sterling 6.0906 ▲ 0.01%

The bridge-bank plan will draw upon the 13 trillion yen fund. Almost 2 trillion yen of the 13 trillion yen has already gone toward boosting capital at banks.

Before yesterday's announcement, the dollar had fallen 3 percent against the yen this week and Japan's Nikkei 225 Index of stocks had gained more than 8% on optimism the government would boost funding for the bridge bank, and even detail a tax cut plan.

"The market was expecting this plan to be more impressive," said Jesper Dannesboe, a treasury economist at ABN Amro who sees the dollar rising to 141 yen today. "It contained none of those yen-boosting factors people were pricing in."

Japanese Finance Minister Hikaru Matsunaga urged swift disposal of problem loans and banks and urged the institutions to increase lending to help bring the economy out of recession.

He was speaking after a joint government and ruling Liberal Democratic Party committee approved a plan to clean up problem loans at the nation's banks.

Matsunaga said management at banks must improve and that the committee said the government will pursue legal action against managers responsible for bank failures. He also said the government aims to create a fair and transparent taxation system that will encourage hard work and entrepreneurship. (Bloomberg)

Gold falls as dollar gains against yen

Precious metals

Gold for immediate delivery dropped 1 percent as the dollar gained against the yen, making the metal more expensive in Japan, the world's seventh-largest consumer.

Gold prices have largely followed changes in the dollar since early June, when the Japanese currency's descent to an eight-year low gathered pace and raised concern that Japanese gold demand will fall.

The dollar rose to more than 140 yen for the first time in two days after a Japanese government plan to revive the country's banking system failed to go beyond measures already discussed by the government. Gold fell as much as $2.70, 1%, to $293.75 an ounce in London. It dropped to a five-month low of $284 an ounce on June 15, a day before the dollar soared to an eight-year high against the yen.

Oil

Crude oil rose as much as 1.7% on optimism that producers are making progress with output cuts promised earlier this year, designed to alleviate a surplus of oil in world markets.

London Brent crude oil for August delivery gained as much as 23 cents to $13.65 a barrel, and last traded 14 cents higher on the International Petroleum Exchange.

The equivalent West Texas Intermediate crude oil contract rose 17 cents to $14.54 a barrel in New York. OPEC countries have cut 877,000 barrels a day from their February production so far, the figure against which all cutbacks are measured.

COMMODITIES



Gold $294.25 ▼ 2.2%
Crude Oil $13.63 ▲ 0.21%
CRB 214.85 ▼ 0.49%

That's 69% of the 1.245 million barrels promised in a first round of cuts in March, according to Bloomberg estimates.

Under pressure from the glut, created by falling demand in Asia and a warmer-than-usual northern hemisphere winter, global producers have agreed cuts totaling 3.23 million barrels a day from world supplies to boost prices which are about 29% lower than a year ago. The latest cuts, agreed by producers inside and outside the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, took effect Wednesday.

Others

Cocoa for September delivery rose as much as 24 pounds ($40), or 2.3 percent, to 1,085 pounds a metric ton on the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange.

Forecasts for clear skies in Ivory Coast, the world's largest grower, are creating concern that the wet season will end earlier than expected, GNI Ltd., a commodity broker, said in its daily market report. An early end to the wet season would deprive the October crop of much-needed rain and could reduce production.

Copper was little changed near Wednesday's 11-year lows. Signs of a possible slowdown in the US economy and in China added to rising concern over sagging Asian demand levels.

US manufacturing recorded its weakest performance in almost two years in June and spending in the country's construction industry, one of the largest copper consumers in the world, unexpectedly fell 1.5% in May.

A new labor contract agreed between unions and management at Asarco Inc., the fourth-largest copper producer in the US, also triggered the decline in copper prices, analysts said.

The benchmark three-month forward contract last traded at $1,602.5 a metric ton after closing $34 lower yesterday at $1,602 a ton. In other base metals, three-month aluminum fell $16.50, or 1.3 percent, to $1,296 a ton. (Bloomberg)

US bonds rise as dollar gains

US bonds rose as the dollar rallied and a report showed job growth slowed in June, boosting optimism that Asia's economic woes are helping to curb US growth and keep inflation at bay.

"The backdrop for bonds remains good," said George Adell, a trader at Philadelphia-based Starboard Capital Markets, said before the report. "The economy is going to fall off."

The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond rose 17/32, or $5.31 per $1,000 bond, to 107 5/8, driving its yield down 4 basis points to 5.59 percent. That's just 2 basis points above the record low reached June 15.

Bonds gained early on as the dollar climbed against the yen after Japan's plan to revive its struggling economy did little to bolster expectations for improvement any time soon. The dollar rose as high as 140.95 yen from 138.50 yen Wednesday, making Treasuries more attractive to international investors who convert the securities' payments into their home currency.

"The dollar screamed overnight and everybody put their money back into Treasuries — hence lower yields," said Adell.

Treasury securities got another boost after the Labor Department said the economy added 205,000 jobs in June, while the unemployment rate unexpectedly rose to 4.5%. Average hourly earnings, meantime, rose 0.1%, less than expected.

BONDS



US 30-year T-bill yield
5.59 ▼ 0.04

Benchmark 30-year bond yields fell to 5.57% last month — the lowest since the Treasury began regular sales of the securities in 1977 — as problems in Asia and Japan made Treasuries attractive as a safe investment, and increased expectations for a slowdown in the US. Today's jobs report adds to recent evidence suggesting that the US economy may be cooling form its robust 5.4% annual pace in the first three months of the year.

The National Association of Purchasing Management Wednesday said manufacturing put in its weakest performance in almost two years in June as the economic crisis in Asia took its toll on exports and a strike against General Motors Corp. shuttered vehicle plants.

Some investors say further gains in bonds are justified because inflation is tame and will probably stay that way as the economy slows. Consumer prices rose just 1.7% in the 12 months ended in May.

At a policy meeting that ended yesterday, the Federal Reserve left its target for overnight lending between banks unchanged at 5.5%, where it was set in March 1997, a sign central bank officials expect Asia's economic slump will curb US growth and keep inflation at bay. (Bloomberg)

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

	Last	Change
DJ Industrials	9025.26	-23.41
DJ Transport	3506.51	-8.09
DJ Utils	293.84	-0.3
DJ Comp	2898.23	-6.59
NYSE Industr	721.04	-0.63
NYSE Transport	504.77	-3.91
NYSE Comp	585.8	-0.2
S&P 100	556.38	-1.22
S&P Spot Index	1145.42	-2.14

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

	Last	Change
FTSE 100	5978.5	+58.6
Tokyo Nikkei	16471.5	+108.7
Singapore all-share index	321.58	+4.65
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index	8866.1	+323
Israel Index	238.04	-3.18
Paris CAC 40	4252.09	-8.59
DAX	5905.86	+9.41
Madrid	899.36	+15.84
Swiss Market Index	6047.3	+9.1
Sydney	2742.7	+43.3
Milan	1455.84	+28.92

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

	Last	Change
Pound spot	1.659	-0.0005
Sep.future (CME)	1.6504	-0.002
D-mark spot	1.8205	+0.0026
Sep.future (CME)	0.5515	-0.0008
S-franc spot	1.5327	+0.004
Sep.future (CME)	0.8569	-0.0025
Yen spot	140.87	+2.79
Sep.future (CME)	0.007145	-0.000176
CanDlr spot	1.4577	+0.0047
Sep.future (CME)	0.6824	-0.0023
AusDlr spot	0.6143	-0.0074
Sep future (CME)	0.6129	-0.0074
F-franc spot	6.1035	+0.005
It Lira spot	1792.2	+0.25
Ntg spot	2.0523	+0.0043
AutShlg spot	12.8195	+0.0354
Rand spot	6.26	+0.265
ECU spot	1.0884	-0.0005

US COMMODITIES

	Last	Change
Cocoa (Jul) (CEC)	1574	+20
Coffee (Jul) (CEC)	110.75	-1.7
Wheat (Jul) (CBOT)	268.25	-5.25
Soybean (Jul) (CBOT)	639.25	-0.25
Sugar (Jul) (CEC)	8.48	+0
Orange juice (Jul)(CEC)	104.45	+0.95
Crude Oil (Aug)(NYMEX)	14.5	+0.13
Bonds Sep.future	123.875	+0.34375
S and P Sep.future	1157.7	+1.3

LONDON COMMODITIES

	Last	Change
Cocoa (Jul) (LCE)	1047	+19
Coffee (Jul) (LCE)	1538	-7
Brent crude oil (Aug)(IPE)	1357	+14

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

	Last	Change
Silver: spot	5.33	-0.14

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

	Last	Change
Gold (Aug)	295	-2.4
Silver (Jul)	5.304	-0.145
Platinum (Jul)	375.6	+5.1
Palladium (Sep)	268.5	-4.05
High-grade copper (Jul)	0.725	+0.005

LONDON METAL FIXES

	Last	Change
Gold AM fix	295.75	-1.35
Gold PM fix	294.05	-2.75
Silver fix	541.5	-8

Month in parentheses signals contract exp. date
(Spot market listings are from approximately 23:30 Israel time. All others are closing quotes.)
SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 2-JUL-98)

FRANKFURT

	Last	Change
Bayer	95.8	+1.2
Daimler-Benz	179.4	+1.8
Lufthansa	49	+1.6
Mannesmann	187.5	+6.5
Metallgesellschaft	37.4	-0.65
Volkswagen	1819	-2.5

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 2-JUL-98)

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

	Last	Change
Sel (Basket) (1)	3.9041	0
US Dollar (1)	3.671	0
British Pound (1)	6.0906	0
Deutsch Mark (1)	2.0158	0
French Franc (1)	0.6013	0
Japanese Yen (100)	2.515	0
Swiss Franc (1)	2.3986	0
Canadian Dollar (1)	2.5086	0
Italian Lira (1000)	2.046	0
Jordanian Dinar (1)	5.1578	0

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

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DJ Industrials	9025.26	-23.41
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DJ Utils	293.84	-0.3
DJ Comp	2898.23	-6.59
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NYSE Comp	585.8	-0.2
S&P 100	556.38	-1.22
S&P Spot Index	1145.42	-2.14

	LAST	CHANGE
Tandy Corp	51.4375	-1.4375
Telecom Corp	38.375	-1.0625
Telefonos de Mex	48.5	-0.5
Telef De Espana	142.875	+0.4375
Temple Inland	53.75	-0.375
Tenneco	37.625	-0.3125
Tenet Health	30.125	-1.375
Teradyne	27.375	-0.0625
Tesoro Pet	18.125	+1.375
Texaco	61.5	+0.625
Texas Instrmnts	57.875	-2.125
Texas Utilities	41.75	+0
Textron	73.0625	-0.1875
Thiokol	-	-
Thomas & Betts	49.625	+0.125
ThreeCom	29.375	-0.875
Time Warner	85.9375	-0.25
Times-Mirror	63.125	-0.4375
Timken	31.125	+0.1875
Torchmark	46.1875	-0.6875
Tosco Corp	30.25	-0.1875
Toys R Us	23.8125	-0.0625
Transamerica	114.875	-0.1875
Transco Energy	66.375	-0.625
Travelers Grp	63.625	+0.5
Tribune	68.875	-0.375
Triton Energy	36.6875	+0.625
TWA	10.4375	+0
Tyco Labs	64.4375	-0.3125
Tyler	9.75	-0.3125
-	-	-
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USX Marathon	35.9375	-0.3125
USX-US Steel	33.1875	-0.25
Ultramar Diam	32.125	+0.5
Unicom Corp	35.125	-0.0625
Unilever PLC	45.125	+0.9375
Unilever NV	81.3125	+0.5625
Union Camp	48.75	-0.8125
Union Carbide	54.375	+0.4375
Union Pacific	43.0625	-0.5
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USF&G Corp	-	-
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Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.060	0.190	0.560
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

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German mark	1.9889	2.0312	1.96	2.06	2.0158
Pound sterling	6.0350	6.1324	5.93	6.22	6.0906
French franc	0.5959	0.6056	0.58	0.62	0.6013
Japanese yen (100)	2.5910	2.6328	2.54	2.67	2.6153
Dutch florin	1.7725	1.8011	1.74	1.83	1.7880
Swiss franc	2.3792	2.4176	2.33	2.46	2.3986
Swedish krona	0.4505	0.4578	0.44	0.47	0.4544
Norwegian krone	0.4694	0.4770	0.46	0.49	0.4731
Danish krone	0.5244	0.5329	0.51	0.55	0.5292
Finnish mark	0.6574	0.6681	0.64	0.68	0.6633
Canadian dollar	2.4870	2.5272	2.44	2.57	2.5086
Australian dollar	2.2407	2.2769	2.20	2.31	2.2538
S. African rand	0.5904	0.6000	0.53	0.60	0.5888
Belgian franc (10)	0.9887	0.9844	0.95	1.00	0.9771
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Irish punt	5.0292	5.1104	4.94	5.19	5.0770
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3534	2.3914	2.31	2.43	2.3743

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

COLUMN ONE

Continued from Page 6

If the festival was a big yawn in London, in Vienna it was a big deal. Austria has been preparing for this six-month stint as Europe's leader since before it formally joined and Chancellor Viktor Klima has turned an essentially bureaucratic handover of EU responsibilities into a nation-fest.

A street party packed the capital's Heldenplatz on Tuesday night. A performance of Beethoven's "Fidelio" at the Vienna State also boomed out over giant television screens in other European capitals. It could be seen as a brave but futile attempt to shout down the beer-guzzling painted football louts that have stolen France's cultural image for a couple of weeks.

Foreign Minister Wolfgang Schuessel said: "It is our wish that out of the Europe of the markets should emerge a Europe of the people ... Austria wants to show itself as a nation of culture, and it also wants to remind Europeans that the EU is not just about money. It needs a soul."

This week, though, don't bother asking any European what he thought of Schuessel, unless you can answer the question: "How many goals did he score?"

GAZA

Continued from Page 1

At the Kfar Darom junction, the IDF stationed three armored personnel carriers in the middle of a road linking two major Gaza Strip cities.

Hundreds of vehicles were brought to a standstill for some five hours. An army bulldozer hauled in sand to set up an extra military position near the Israeli-controlled junction.

IDF troops handed out refreshments, and Kibbutz Sa'ad offered to host Netzarim settlers who were stranded on the road.

An IAF helicopter was flown in to take a woman from Netzarim to a hospital to give birth.

Gaza Coast Regional Council head Aharon Tsur charged that the Palestinians were once again gravely violating the signed agreements.

The Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza called on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and the government to put an end to the siege as soon as possible.

Council spokeswoman Yehudit Tayar said: "This is only an example of what may happen in Judea and Samaria if there is a 13% withdrawal," she said.

"For seven hours we are closed in our settlements; there are 150 Jewish workers from Ofakim and Netivot who are unable to return home and are considering setting off on foot," said Sheila Shoshan of Kfar Darom.

There were reports that the IDF was considering airlifting residents of Netzarim that were stuck in the traffic outside Gush Katif unable to reach their homes.

PA sources accused Israel of violating an agreement allowing the Palestinians to use the road freely. Shahin accused the IDF and Israel of acting in a racist manner.

Palestinian sources said the situation was extremely volatile and Palestinian security forces had been placed on alert.

Mohammed Najib contributed to this report.

When the titans duel, everybody loses

First the president openly blamed the prime minister for the breakdown in the peace process. Then the premier accused the president of being on the Arabs' side. That's a charge of treason, the president shot back. And the public? They're like fearful children whose parents are squabbling – all they want is peace and reconciliation, writes Larry Derfner

Ezer Weizman learns the hard way.

When the president arrived in the northern Negev Tuesday evening, he was still on top of the world. A little more than an hour later, the world would shift underneath him.

"What do you want?" Weizman demanded of a reporter as he made his way into the courtyard of the Joe Alon Museum of Beduin Culture. The reporter said he'd driven down there to ask the president just a couple of questions.

"That's your problem," Weizman replied. "I've been talking about it for the last 24 hours. Enough. Enough!" he said, and moved on.

"He drove down here to ask me questions! That's his problem!" Weizman blustered to his entourage, and waded into the welcoming crowd. "*Ahlan wa sahlan*!" he said to one and all, kissing and hugging his way forward.

The president was in excellent form. He was on his home turf; there were about 100 people there, most of them IAF veterans.

The occasion was the 25th anniversary of the death of Col. Joe Alon, an IAF legend and flying buddy of Weizman's. The president told anecdote after anecdote about Alon and the old days – about hunting game from the air and drinking "that miserable Israeli cognac," about Mirages, Spitfires and impossible landings, about Danny and Pilpel and the rest of the boys.

The gray-haired men and their wives, seated in the courtyard, nodded, laughed, called out corrections and embellishments. Weizman, wearing a short-sleeve shirt and tie, looked as happy as a *birthday boy*.

He had made everyone's week by calling for new elections, saying Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu had deceived him and had driven the peace process into a ditch. The polls indicated the president had gotten the intended rise out of the public.

Leading pollster Mina Tsemah found that 50 percent of those *surveyed* were in favor of new elections, with 39 percent against. "Clearly, Weizman has either influenced public opinion or read it correctly. It's probably a combination of both," she said.

In the courtyard, a doctor who had served in the IAF under Weizman was asked if he thought his ex-commander would succeed in rousing the public and politicians to force Netanyahu to the polls.

"I think the revolution is going to start in the next few days, and Weizman will raise an army that will march behind him toward new elections," the doctor said. "Finally someone has shown the strength to stand up and say what needed to be said."

> **'In a very subtle way, using no understatement, Netanyahu called Weizman a traitor. He hung him out to be killed'**
>
> **Political *consultant* Yariv Ben-Elizer**

"You really think so?" the doctor's neighbor, a local kibbutznik, asked. "You think that just because Weizman feels so strongly about this, he can generate such momentum?"

"Look," replied the doctor, "if you or I – the *anshu* – say something like he did, or if the opposition says it, then nobody listens. But if the president, who is supposedly neutral, reaches the point where he comes out and says the situation has gotten so critical, then he has a lot of power to persuade people."

"I'm more pessimistic, or realistic," said the kibbutznik. "Weizman made the first wave. But we still don't know what the second wave is going to be."

WHEN the sky turned dark, the second wave hit. Netanyahu went on television and said Weizman "is essentially putting himself on the side of Arafat and Mubarak."

Because of the president's statements, Netanyahu said, "in the Arab capitals – in Gaza, Damascus and Cairo – they are pleased."

Weizman had already gotten a taste of this the previous week, when he'd begun blaming Netanyahu openly for the breakdown in the peace process.

"Weizman is going to have to decide if he's on the Palestinian side or the Israeli side," sources close to Netanyahu had said, and Weizman, according to his aides, responded: "I'm not going to be another Yitzhak Rabin. I'm not going to be the victim of their incitement."

On the morning after Netanyahu's blast, the headline of *Ma'ariv* read: "Netanyahu: Weizman aids Arafat; President: This is a charge of treason."

The duel of the titans was no longer entertaining. Danger was in the air. The public's mood shifted. On Israel Radio's morning talk show, pollster Yossi Vedana said he'd found that Weizman's statements were having a divisive effect on the people, swinging the Left behind him and the Right against him. Only 45% of the public expressed "high confidence" in the president, compared to about 75% a few months before, he said.

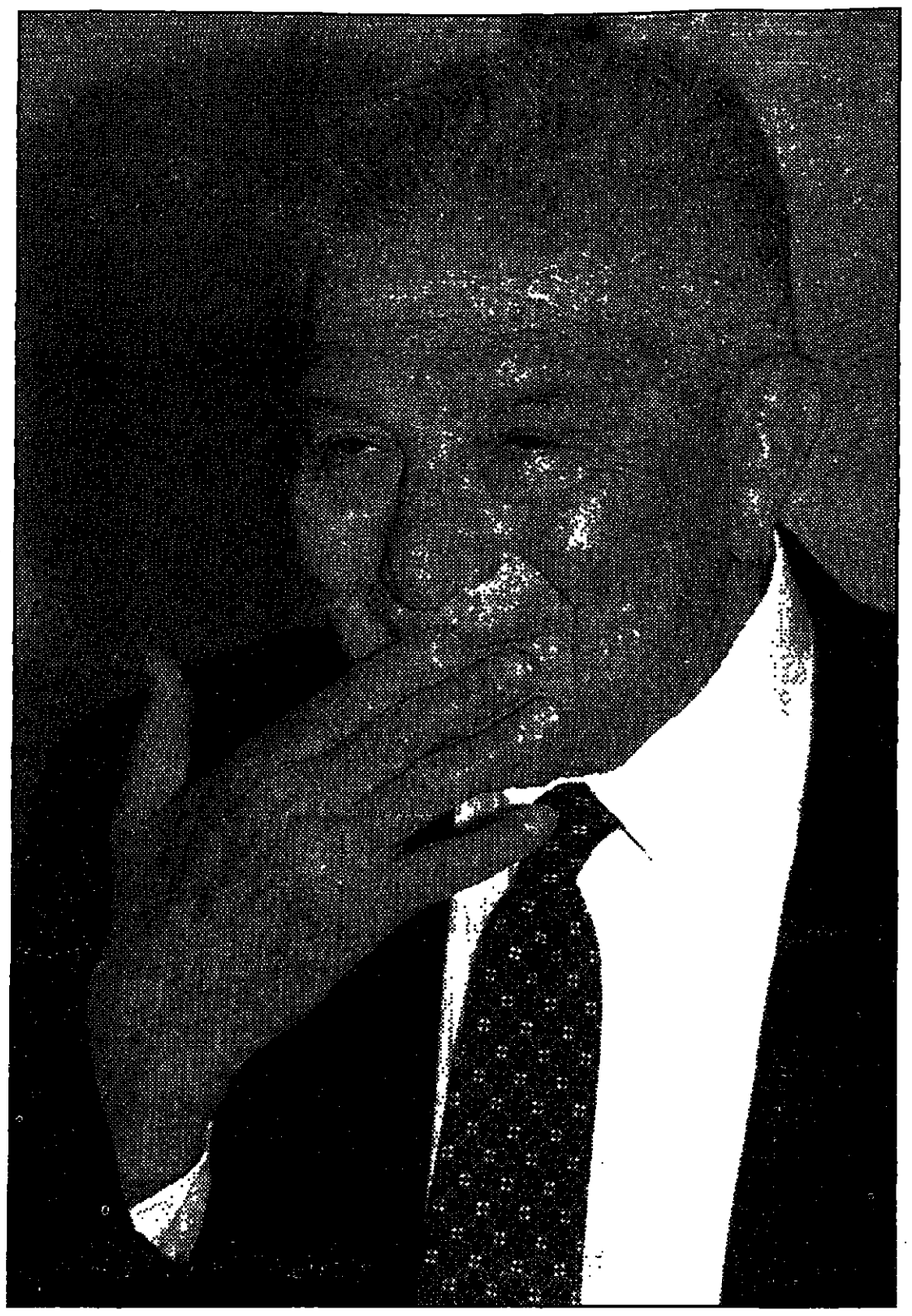
Recently-retired IDF Gen. Yoram "Ya-Ya" Yair, who has been testing the political waters with sure-fire calls for Israeli "unity" and "dialogue," said of the Weizman-Netanyahu dispute: "Abba and Ima are squabbling, and it doesn't matter who's right and who's wrong. What matters is that we, the children, are crying."

"The public wants peace at home, reconciliation," said Vedana.

And the children could only stop crying if Weizman stopped making a racket.

The president had called a press conference for Wednesday morning to fight back against Netanyahu's charges, but he decided to cancel it. He went ahead with his "reconciliation meeting" with Netanyahu, and afterwards the two agreed that "for the good of the country," they would iron out future issues "between themselves, not in public."

"The president did not agree to keep quiet," said sources close to Weizman. "If he has disagreements with the prime minister, he will first raise them with Bibi, and then take them to the public."



Weizman after a statement to the press this week: He found out the hard way that when he starts being political, he loses his privilege and protection. (AP/Heidi Levine)

Sources close to the prime minister expressed satisfaction with the pact. "The agreement that differences of opinion and criticism will be exchanged and voiced only between them is the way things should have been handled in the first place," the sources said.

Told of the somewhat different interpretation coming from Weizman's circle, the sources close to Netanyahu replied: "We hope he will say nothing that could be construed as criticism of government policy, particularly as regards our relationship with the Americans and the Palestinians."

The prime minister's circle maintained that when Weizman criticizes Netanyahu on the peace process, he weakens Israel's negotiating position. Asked, then, what Weizman *could* say publicly about the peace process that would fall within the boundaries of "moral legitimacy," the sources replied firmly: "[The boundaries of] moral legitimacy are that the president cannot say anything that sounds like it's in opposition to the policy of the government of Israel."

Yet what about when Weizman criticized former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin when the bombs were exploding on buses?

"It was wrong then, too. He should have said it to Rabin privately," the sources replied. (At the time of Weizman's criticism of Rabin, however, Netanyahu himself, then leader of the opposition, was quoted as saying, "We must do exactly as the president said – we must halt the [peace] process.")

Asked if Netanyahu's statements on TV were a replay of the incitement that preceded Rabin's assassination, the sources replied, "No." Asked if Netanyahu's statements endangered Weizman's life, the sources repeated, "No."

Yet Yariv Ben-Eliezer, a political consultant and communications professor, said the whole affair pointed up some horrible things about Netanyahu, and about the whole political system, from top to bottom.

"In a very unsubtle way, using no understatement, Netanyahu called Weizman a traitor. He hung him out to be killed. Netanyahu hasn't learned a thing from all that happened before Rabin's assassination," said Ben-Eliezer, dean of the School of *Communications at Tel Aviv's* College of Management.

Weizman found out the hard way that as soon as he stopped being presidential and started being political, "he lost his privileges and protection. He ventured into an area where there is no grace, where the style is cutthroat," said Ben-Eliezer, who has managed campaigns of right-winger Rafael Eitan, left-winger Haim Ramon and centrist Maxim Levy.

> **'We hope Weizman will say nothing that could be construed as criticism of government policy, particularly as regards our relationship with the Americans and the Palestinians'**
>
> **– Sources close to Netanyahu**

By accusing Weizman of siding with the Arabs, Netanyahu had "crossed all the boundaries, incited to murder," Ben-Eliezer said.

"Bibi is a brilliant communicator, and every time he goes on the air with his nonsense he succeeds in turning people's heads inside out," Ben-Eliezer said.

In the courtyard of the Joe Alon Museum, just before Netanyahu had his say on TV, the kibbutznik was explaining why he was skeptical about Weizman's chances of leading a political upheaval.

"So many things can happen between now and then to turn the situation in a different direction," he said.

"The government has tremendous power to shape events. And the people are confused."

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Shahak: A farewell to arms

The outgoing chief of staff doesn't seem in any hurry to decide on his future, though his name has been bandied about in the political arena. He talks to Arieh O'Sullivan about a 'more open' IDF – which doesn't mean interference from soldiers' families

Amnon Lipkin-Shahak sits relaxed in his chair. A video crew cleans up its cables and is clearing out. The lieutenant-general has just given a sound bite for a farewell video for OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine, who is also wrapping up his military career.

On Shahak's desk is a copy of *The Jerusalem Post*, a few days old. Hanging on the wall is a photo of Yitzhak Rabin. A bronze statue of an American minuteman sits on the shelf behind him. Shahak's desk is extra wide, increasing the distance between us.

Shahak has never hidden his contempt for the media, and, in this farewell interview, doesn't hesitate to call questions "illegitimate" or downright "stupid."

When Shahak hands over the reins to Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz next Thursday, people will be more interested in his plans for the future – and whether they include a political move – than in whatever legacy his 36-year military career has left to the Israel Defense Forces.

Shahak's name has been tossed around this year as a possible ambassador to Washington, a would-be running mate to prime minister hopeful Ronni Milo, even as a potential replacement for Labor leader Ehud Barak, his IDF predecessor.

"Sometimes when I read the articles in the Israeli papers it makes me laugh," says Shahak, 54, flashing his trademark grin. "Others are trying to bring up my name in the political arena. But I haven't done it. And as long as I am in uniform, I won't."

Does that mean you have political ambitions?

"Questions like this have nothing to do with my post as chief of the general staff. It isn't even legitimate to ask a question like this while I am still in uniform. Only after I retire and have a chance to collect my thoughts will I give any indication of what I will do." Every task – even chief of staff – is temporary."

For the past few weeks, months really, Shahak has put a lot of effort into heading off political questions. Still – in what may be a preview of things to come – he landed squarely on the front pages last month, when he accused Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu of distorting the truth in a dispute about a briefing Shahak gave at a cabinet meeting. The two men later met and made up, officials said.

For now, Shahak seems keen on bowing out smoothly from his final IDF role. Decorated twice for courage, in the 1968 Karameh operation during which the IDF destroyed a Palestinian base, and the 1973 Aviv Neurim raid on PLO headquarters in Beirut, he radiates calm authority.

The life of an army is measured from war to war. And when there are no wars, it is measured from chief of staff to chief of staff.

When then-defense minister Yitzhak Rabin chose Shahak to take over from Barak on January 1, 1995 the IDF was facing an unprecedented "window of opportunity."

A peace treaty had been signed with Jordan, the peace process with the Palestinians was progressing, and Israeli and Syria army chiefs were talking to each other.

For the first time in Israel's history, the army could focus on structural changes and preparations for a rainy day in the future.

But that future came quicker than expected. Shahak ended up embroiled in one of the most challenging, problematic, politically explosive and unrewarding tenures of any chief of general staff before him.

After the Rabin assassination in November 1995 and a spate of Hamas suicide bombings, a new right-wing government came into power. Yitzhak Mordechai, whom Shahak did not want as his deputy, was suddenly his ultra-hands-on boss as defense minister.

The calm on the Palestinian front was shattered. Clashes erupted in which more than a dozen IDF soldiers and 60 Palestinians were killed.

Syria moved two more divisions closer to the Golan Heights and drummed its army to prepare for war.

The guerrilla war in Lebanon took on new proportions with the death of 73 servicemen in a February 1997 helicopter collision and 12 soldiers in a botched raid by naval commandoes last September.

At the same time Shahak watched as the IDF lost some of its sacrosanct character and civilians increasingly examined IDF affairs.

In a speech delivered on the first anniversary of Rabin's assassination, Shahak called the army society's "punching bag.

"Military preparatory school included, I have spent 39 years in army boots, in uniform. When I joined the army the existential threat to the state was very, very great, and we felt it was our destiny to make the state stronger. There was a sense of national unity, but a lot has changed since then.

"Today, fortunately, the existential threat has been weakened. But individualism has won out over collectivism.

"The IDF needs to be open to criticism; I am all for families' involvement in the lives of their soldier sons – but not interference. If a soldier is having trouble at home, his family should inform his commanders. But it's not their place to come and complain that he's marching too much."

When it comes to the IDF's relations with politicians, Shahak has had to walk a tightrope in a climate which sees senior officers as lackeys of the previous government.

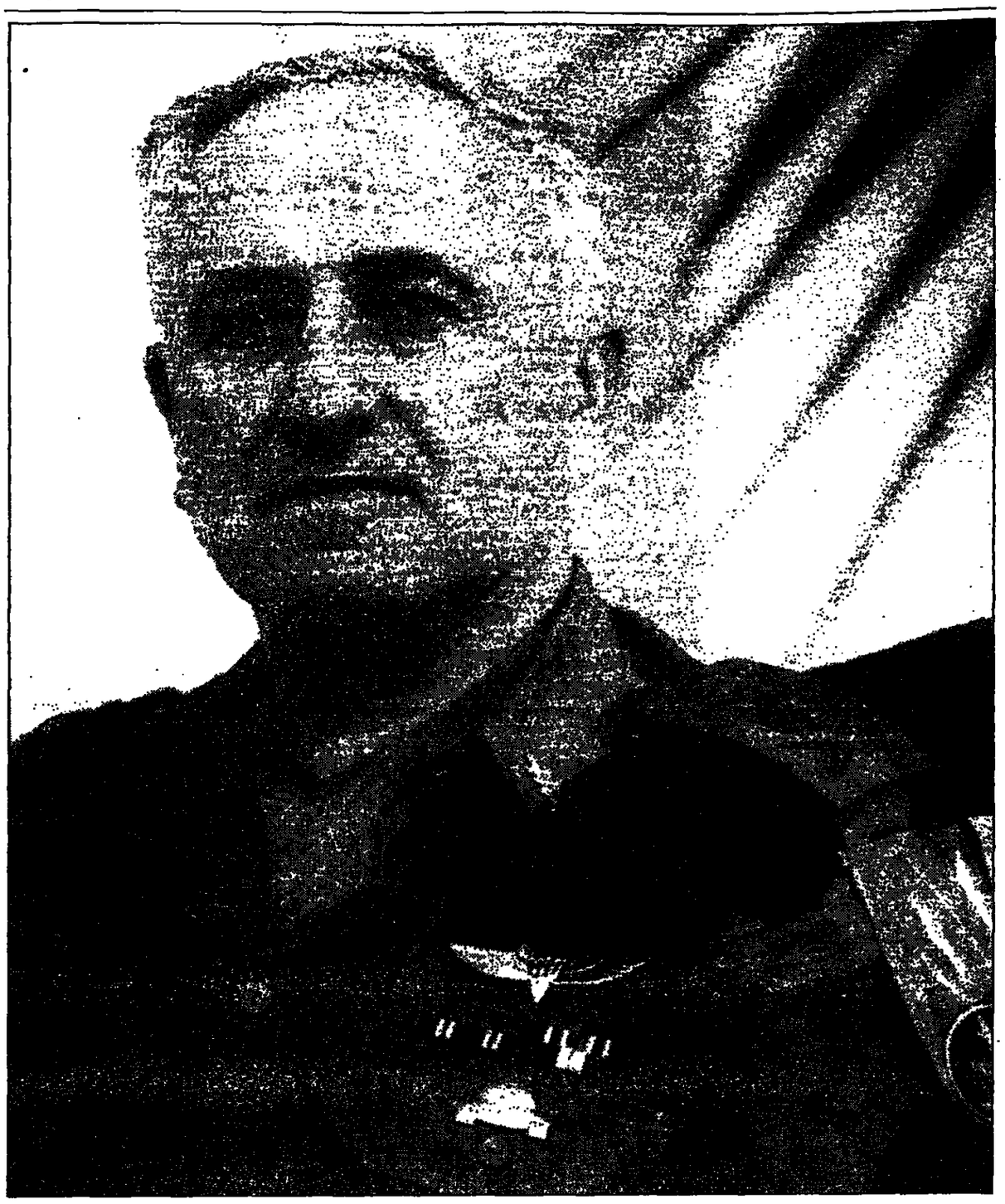
Until last week, Netanyahu and Shahak had not met for months, except to discuss Shahak's replacement.

Do you feel the government is systematically ignoring the view of the military?

"The army has a job to do, and that is to supply the government – which makes the decisions – with facts, with information. The government isn't just one man. It comprises many people, respected people, some with a considerable military background. We are sure our positions are being heard."

As deputy chief of general staff, Shahak held the sensitive job of chief negotiator with the Palestinians in the talks leading to the 1994 Cairo agreement. His role triggered accusations that senior IDF officers were getting excessively involved in the peace process.

Do you think this policy should be continued?



'When I joined the army we felt it was our destiny to make the state stronger. There was a sense of national unity, but a lot has changed since then.' (Israel Sun)

"I don't think IDF officers should head negotiations like I did, but they should have some kind of participation in the security aspects. [Broadly speaking], the army has to be out of the political game, and everyone needs to leave it out."

Is a Palestinian state a strategic threat to Israel?

"We have to learn to live with them," Shahak says of the Palestinians, choosing his words carefully.

If the Palestinians declare statehood next year, is it realistic to talk of retaking Palestinian cities? Wouldn't the casualties be very high?

"The question is not the cost, but what happens in the aftermath. I am against such a move."

The most major military operation under Shahak's tenure was Operation Grapes of Wrath in April 1996, a bid to rid the North of the threat of Katyusha rockets.

The operation was characterized by an impressive display of IDF firepower; but then something went terribly wrong. IDF artillery shelled a UN outpost, killing over 100 Lebanese civilians who had sought refuge there.

Still, in retrospect, the subsequent agreements have held up, and no Israeli civilian has been killed since. But the daily war against the Shi'ite guerrillas has killed a total of 170 soldiers during Shahak's tenure as chief of staff.

Shahak has steadfastly stood behind the policy of staying in the security zone. It was during his tenure that the IDF set up the Egoz special force unit, whose sole task is to search out and destroy Hizbullah gunmen.

What about Mordechai's initiative to adopt UN resolution 425 based on a negotiated withdrawal from Lebanon. Is it realistic?

"The initiative has kept the possibility of a deal alive. But the key to any deal in Lebanon is Syria. And for the moment, I don't see any change in the Syrian position regarding Lebanon."

Asked if demonstrations calling for a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon endanger soldiers' lives, Shahak emits a flat "No."

When he started his term, he met with the Syrian chief of staff, Gen. Hikmat Shihabi, before talks were broken off. Since then the Syrian army has been preparing for war.

Are the Syrians likely to attack Israel to regain the Golan Heights?

"They have been arming themselves with new Russian weapons systems for the past two years, and training their troops for war. But it's not enough to see what they are doing. One needs to hear what they are saying as well – and they are telling their soldiers that they must prepare to fight. Still, I don't think we are close to an outbreak of war."

Strategically, can Israel give up the Golan Heights in return for a peace treaty with Syria?

"We first have to decide a number of factors: What [exactly] are the Golan Heights? What would a peace agreement include? [What about] water rights, the movement of Israelis, warning stations? We need to clarify these aspects and others before I can give any opinion on the matter.

"But Lebanon, Syria and the Palestinian problem are all sidelined alongside the IDF's central task: preparing to defend the state in an all-out war."

If Barak was summed up as the chief of staff who prepared the IDF for the technological and doctrinal challenges of the future, Shahak was the one who implemented them.

He leaves the IDF on the threshold of a new era. This year will see the long arm of the IDF extended with the arrival of the F-15I jets and the first of three German-built Dolphin-class submarines. The Arrow anti-ballistic missile system is slated for deployment, and the defense establishment is working on advanced models of the Merkava tank and munitions. All are central components of the IDF force building toward the year 2000.

Under Shahak, the IDF has seen its multi-year plan ruptured, mainly because of budget cuts. His army has been forced to recruit talented officers aggressively to stave off mediocrity. And he has had to devote enormous energy to preparing the home front for a future war involving chemically and biologically tipped missiles.

Shahak declines to assess his legacy or greatest achievements, saying only:

"When you initiate a project, you sometimes don't see its fruits for 20 years. I have worked to make the IDF more efficient, use its budget better and enhance its fighting capability and motivation.

"I don't want to address current ongoing projects because I don't want to give the enemy any presents.

You have said that the IDF is not prepared to handle the draft of haredim. Does the IDF really want haredim?

"The IDF has no position [on this]. The decision must be made by the state. If we were given orders to draft a certain segment of society tomorrow, we could do it. If the state suddenly decided – and this is purely hypothetical, I don't advocate it – that all 16-year-olds should be drafted, we could do it.

"The army only presents the figures of those who aren't serving, and the figures grow by the year. But the IDF has no definite position regarding haredim."

Has the time come to terminate the compulsory draft since, as you say, there is no longer an existential threat to the state?

"No. You don't just need the draft to deal with existential threats, and then discard it when those threats diminish. You need the draft because you need an army to defend a state. You can't have only a certain sector of society defending the state."

It has been 25 years since the IDF fought a serious conventional war, yet foreign armies still admire and respect it.

"You talk like someone who is nostalgic for war," Shahak says. "We don't want a war. The IDF's role isn't to fight wars. It is to deter, to prevent them. Actually we are in a better situation than other armies, because we can define our enemies. We know who we'll be fighting, where it may happen, and how."

Shahak hasn't hidden his disappointment over the way his successor was chosen, but expresses full confidence in Shaul Mofaz.

"The general staff is in capable hands with Mofaz. The general staff is excellent because it has first-rate people who will be able to draw upon each other. If some lack experience in one field, like intelligence, there are others who can make up for it."

Shahak is considered a serious and eloquent professional. He has been described as a cynic, with a sharp, sarcastic sense of humor, an arrogant man with a condescending attitude. But Shahak insists that he did not prepare for the slew of end-of-my-career interviews he has been giving.

Is there any decision you regret?

"No."

Can you name one person who influenced your military career or shaped you as a general?

"I've been in uniform for 39 years. Even my commander at military preparatory school must have influenced me. I wouldn't want to leave out any names, as I'm sure I've learned from many people. But I've never modeled myself on anyone."

Shahak met his wife Tali while she was a military correspondent during the Lebanon War. They have two children, and he has another three from a previous marriage.

Considering his opinion of journalists, I asked Shahak whether his marriage wasn't a bit like sleeping with the enemy.

"I don't want to tell you what I think of that stupid question," he says with a smile. "I don't intend to answer it. I love my wife and our children. Who her friends are have nothing to do with our relationship."

Shahak doesn't seem in any hurry to decide his next move.

He is planning to fly to the US after he steps down. When he returns, he plans to take his kids to Europe, and only then think about what he will do next.

"I'm thinking about taking a computer course, reading some books and spending time with my family. How am I going to fill the vacuum? I don't know. I've never been in this situation before.

"I'll take a rest, then I'll decide."

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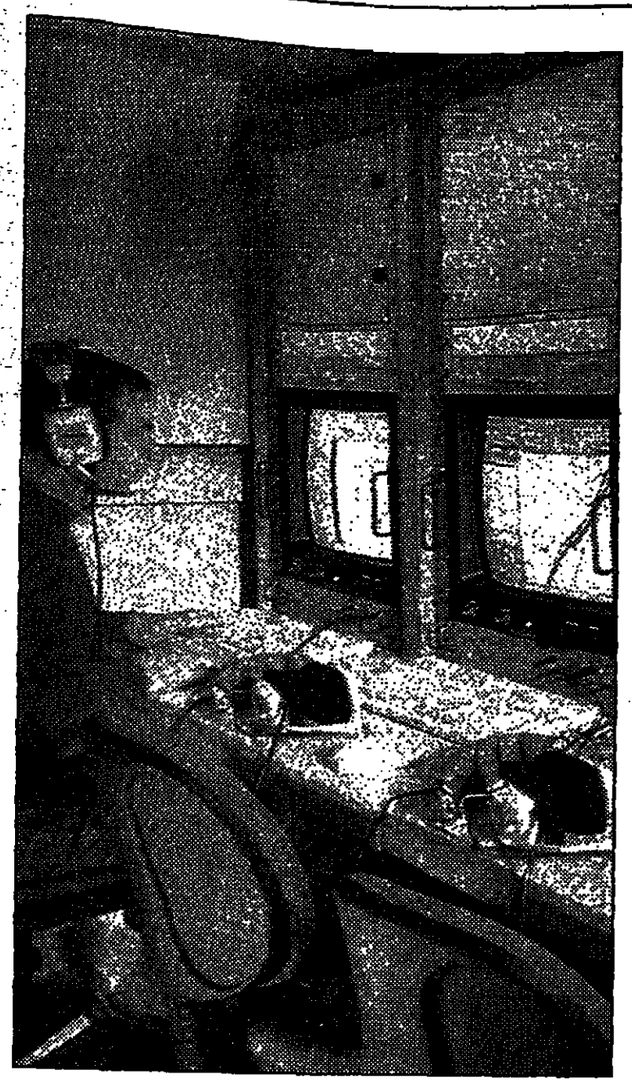
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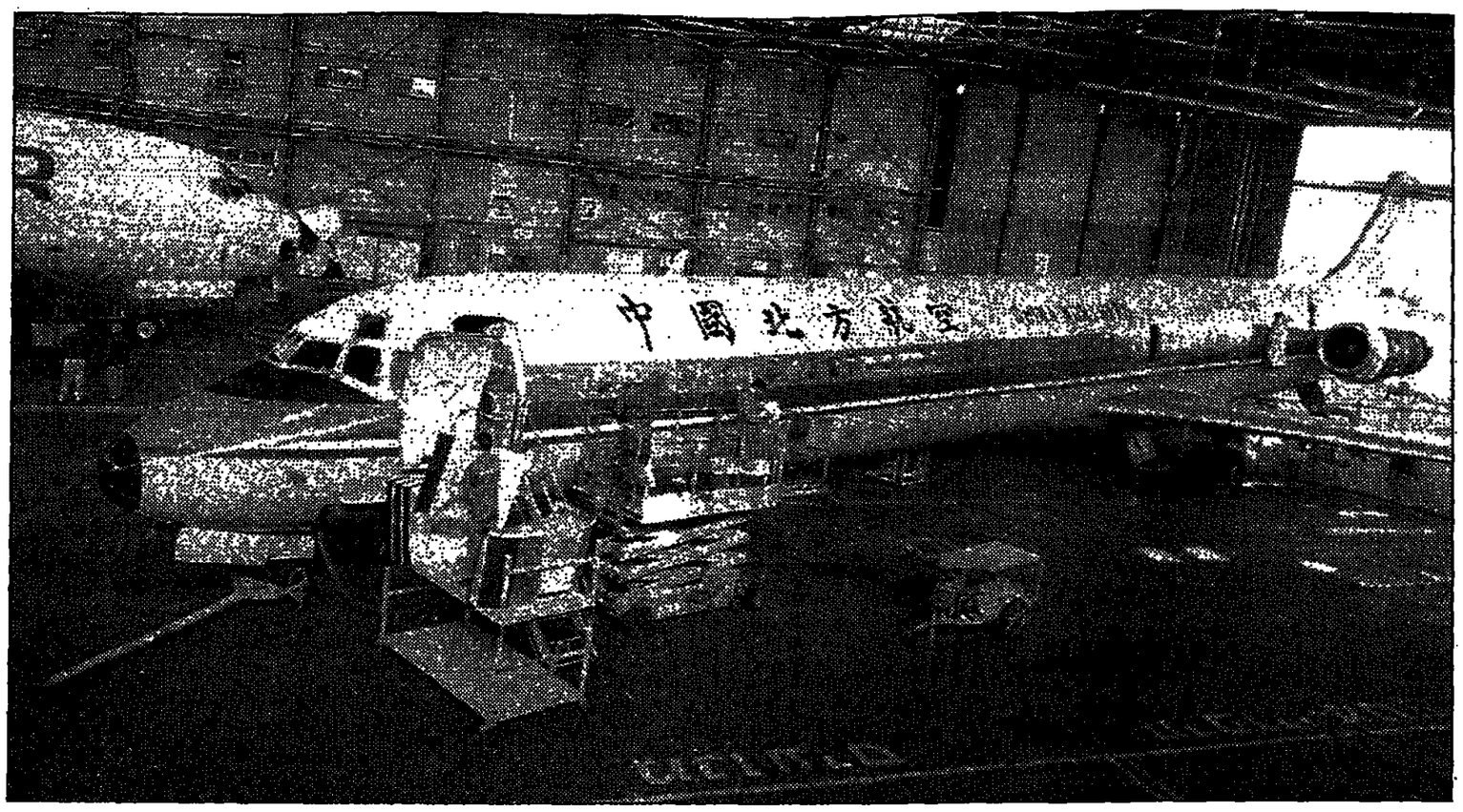
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Israel's defense industry is a jumble of small companies competing with each other for foreign and local contracts. (Left) Elta delivers an electronic surveillance system to the Swiss army; (Above): Workers at Israel Aircraft Industries' Bedek Aviation plant inspect and repair a Chinese passenger jet.

Defense industry: Grounded

Rivalry between Israeli defense companies is cutting into profits at a time when cost, not quality, determines who gets contracts. **Steve Rodan** reports

Emmanuel Gill let a smile spread over his face as he peered from the podium at the hundreds of air force officers and executives gathered for the Israel Air Force 50th anniversary conference in Tel Aviv this week.

"We go to air shows and all we seem to see are our competitors," he said. "Here, we see customers and these people are the decision-makers."

As chairman of Elbit Ltd., Gill represents a business that includes the largest and arguably most aggressive private defense company in Israel. The subsidiary Elbit Systems Ltd., the defense company, has won competitions in such places as the US, Romania, and Thailand, and is vying in other countries against Western giants.

But a look past Gill toward the rest of the executives on the dais pinpointed everything that is worrisome about both Elbit and the future of Israel's defense industry.

To Gill's right was Norman Augustine, former chairman of Lockheed Martin, the largest defense contractor in the world, and Aloysius Rauen, president of the Dasa military aircraft division of Daimler-Benz. And at the end of the dais sat Moshe Keret, president of Israel Aircraft Industries. Elbit's fiercest competitor.

In a world of corporate mergers and international partnerships, Israel's defense industry remains a jumble of small and even tiny companies often wasting their technological edge by competing with each other for foreign and Israeli defense contracts.

All of Israel's defense industries combined have assets worth $4 billion, about the level of a midsized US defense contractor. In these days of decreasing defense budgets and the growing financial crisis in Japan and the rest of Asia, the future of a scattered Israeli industry appears more precarious than ever.

"I believe in joining forces," said Herzl Bodinger, former Israel Air Force commander and now chief executive officer of Rada Electronic Industries. "We have a lot to do in this country before we go outside."

The good news is that separately Israel's defense companies often can compete in many Western and Third World countries. Sales and profits are up in many of the major companies, such as IAI, Elbit and TAAS Israel Industries (formerly Israel Military Industries). Even Rafael Armament Development Authority, which lost $30 million in 1997, cut its losses by nearly half from the previous year and increased sales by more than 15 percent.

In all, Israeli defense exports in 1997 exceeded $2b.

THE BAD news is that when you put all these Israeli companies together, you have chaos. These days, IAI doesn't compete as much with US and European defense giants as it does with Elbit. The two companies have fought vicious battles in Romania, Thailand and Brazil for upgrade contracts.

But Elbit and IAI are not the only rivals in Israel's defense industry. TAAS competes with Rafael in South America; Rafael competes with Tadiran; Shaham Electronics competes with Maoz for US Air Force projects.

The winners of these competitions often end up losing money, executives say, in price wars between Israeli companies determined to enter new markets at any cost.

Defense Ministry officials' efforts to promote cooperation between companies have largely failed – the latest example was in Brazil, where IAI and Elbit executives refused to work together, largely over the question of which would be the prime contractor upgrading F-5 fighter jets.

"It was as much a matter of ego as any other consideration," a defense source involved with the companies said. "Nobody was willing to follow the other's lead."

Defense Ministry Director-General Ilan Biran has been alarmed by what he regards as reckless competition between Israeli industries. He has appointed a committee headed by Moshe [Mussa] Peled, former OC Southern Command and former director at Rafael, to draft recommendations on the industry's future. The Peled Committee has been working for about a year, and has interviewed 80 executives.

The report has not been approved yet by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, but the recommendations propose far-reaching changes. In short, the committee proposes that the industry be consolidated, duplications eliminated and manpower cut.

There are numerous examples of duplication. Elta Electronics Industries and Elisra Electronics both produce electronic warfare and radar systems. Both Elbit and IAI produce unmanned aircraft vehicles. The two companies also offer aircraft and helicopter upgrade. The result is waste in manpower and research and development funding.

Another example is TAAS and Rafael. Both bodies – TAAS is a government company and Rafael a

As the committee sees it, Israel should have two firms in the defense industry – one dealing solely in aircraft, the other in missiles and ordinance

unit of the Defense Ministry – produce missiles and bombs. The committee would want them to merge as well.

AS THE committee sees it, Israel should have two firms in the defense industry. One should deal solely in aircraft, essentially a merger between IAI and Elbit; the other should engage in missiles and ordinances, combining Rafael and TAAS.

The concept is easily understood by Western defense executives. "In industry," said Lockheed Martin's Augustine, "we have far too many companies in the world to support them appropriately, given the defense budgets."

Next would come the privatization stage. These new companies could be privatized as long as they remained in Israeli hands. The Peled Committee would ban foreign ownership of any Israeli defense contractor. But civilian units of current defense companies could be sold to foreigners.

One example is Bedek Aviation, a division of IAI that maintains and upgrades civilian aircraft. That could easily be sold abroad.

What the government would not privatize is research and development. Rafael conducts the lion's share of R&D; IAI and TAAS also invest in research. The Peled Committee wants the government to significantly increase funding for R&D, which has dropped sharply over the last decade.

Outgoing deputy chief of staff Matan Vilna'i agrees. "We have to boost our edge in research and development," he said. "We are simply dropping in our level."

Officials and many defense industry executives confirm that the drop in R&D spending could not come at a worse time. Israel is being threatened by ballistic missiles from Syria and Iran, with additional threats that might recur from Iraq, Egypt and Libya. In many of these cases, countries such as Syria can place chemical warheads on the missile.

The Israeli response to the missile threat involves many elements. They include reconnaissance ability, particularly in space, to spot the missiles immediately upon launch if not before. They require precise communications and radar tracking to spot the missile while still in enemy territory. They might require unmanned air vehicles and special rockets to intercept the enemy missiles.

The huge US-Israeli Arrow anti-missile defense program, officials and executives agree, will not be enough to combat enemy missiles.

All this will demand a focused and lean Israeli defense industry. The competitive approach to Israeli defense contracts might be reduced to encourage single-source supply and ensure that projects are not sidetracked.

But defense executives know that economics, more than government requirements, will guide the defense industries.

Israel's defense budget is not expected to grow significantly in the next few years. Foreign defense contracts will be harder to come by as shrinking budgets will encourage local procurement. And many countries not under threat will weigh economic and political factors in their weapons purchases more than the weapons' capabilities. That explains why Rafael's Python-4 missile lost in competitions in Australia and Britain to missiles that were barely operational.

"Most of my engineers are full of great ideas. They would tell me they need more R&D money," IAI's Keret said. "And I would say, 'Can you make it cheaper?' And they would answer, 'Sure – but it will cost more.'"

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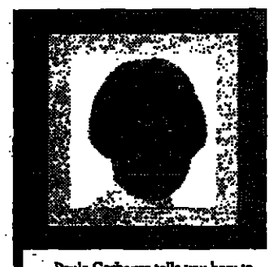
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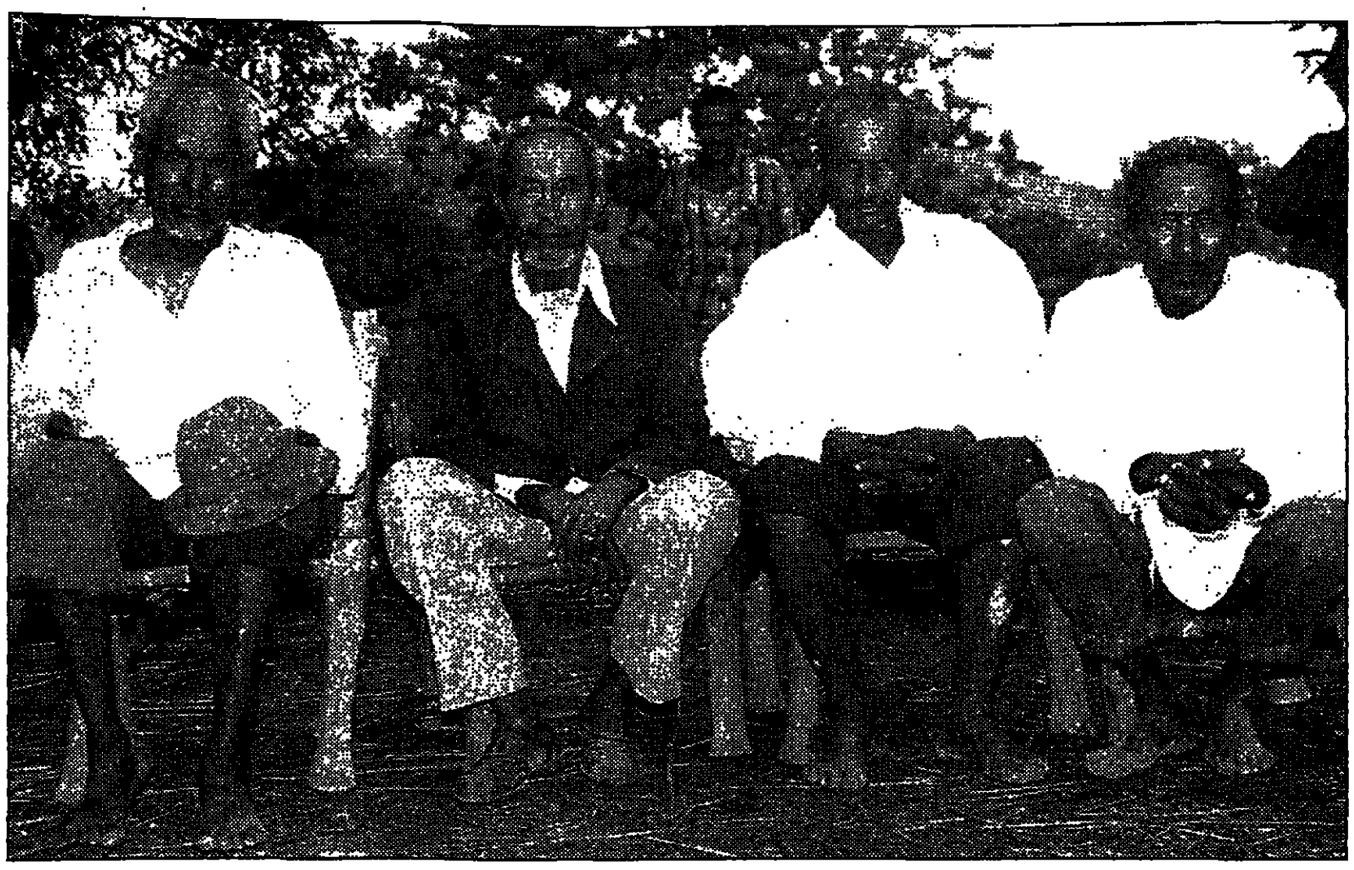
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Jews in Galago, a village in the remote Quara region of Ethiopia, apparently were left there because of a power struggle. Amara (second from left), the leader of the community, missed the 1993 airlift to Israel. (Nir Katz)



The Addis Ababa compound a year ago: Only 200 remain in the camp that served thousands of Falash Mura refugees over the last seven years. (Karen Benzian)

Left behind

The government was premature in celebrating the Addis Ababa compound's closure this week, considering the plight of the Jews and Falash Mura who still remain in Ethiopia, as **Dan Izenberg** reports



Ethiopian immigrants demonstrate outside the Knesset last week demanding that their Jewish relatives in the Quara region be brought to Israel. (Nir Katz)

There was something hauntingly familiar about the government's triumphant announcement last week that the compound in Addis Ababa, which had served thousands of Falash Mura refugees for seven years, was about to close.

From now on, government officials trumpeted, the remaining members of the Jewish community in Ethiopia will be processed individually and allowed to immigrate only if eligible according to the Law of Return.

To many, it sounded like Israel was essentially declaring that the wave of Ethiopian immigration, which began in 1984, was over and that the remnants of Ethiopian Jewry could now be treated like the Jews of any other country.

Eight years ago, at the end of Operation Solomon, the government made a similar announcement. After two dramatic days during which Israel airlifted 14,000 Ethiopian Jews from Addis Ababa, it declared that the ingathering of Ethiopian Jewry had been completed. But while the announcement was being made, 1,200 Falash Mura refugees, who had streamed into Addis Ababa from Gondar province in the hope of boarding a plane to Israel, were milling about in the Ethiopian capital.

Within a few months, their numbers had increased to 4,000. They were bitterly disappointed at having been turned down by the Jewish Agency on the grounds that they had converted to Christianity and were not considered Jews. Furthermore, the Jewish Agency was aware that thousands of Jews living in the remote Quara region, in the Gondar province, cut off from the rest of the country by guerrilla warfare, had also been left behind.

Since the dramatic announcement in 1991 that there were no Jews left in Ethiopia, some 12,000 have arrived in Israel. Now, eight years later, it looks like we are experiencing deja vu.

In 1991, the Falash Mura in Addis Ababa, many of whom had relatives in Israel, quickly became an embarrassment to the government, which felt that it could not disassociate itself from them. The refugees were impoverished, jobless and helpless. Israel quickly asked the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry (NACOEJ) to assist them.

The organizations established a small compound in the capital which provided basic services, including a school and an infirmary. Meanwhile, the Chief Rabbinate sent Rabbi Menachem Waldman to teach the Falash Mura Judaism.

The Rabbinate had decided that since the Falash Mura were the descendants of Jews, they did not need to be converted, but had only to undergo a less stringent procedure known as "returning to Judaism." Waldman became one of the most powerful and influential figures in the compound. In order to receive the compound's services, the Falash Mura in Addis Ababa had to prove their Jewish descent. The camp administrators investigated each newcomer before registering him as a member of the Beta Israel community in Addis Ababa and beneficiary of the compound's services. Nevertheless, the question of the relationship of the Falash Mura to Judaism has not been resolved, and many still question their right to come here.

On June 6, 1997, the Ministerial Committee on Diaspora Affairs decided to shut down the compound and bring the remaining 4,000 refugees registered in it to Israel. A new airlift over the past year has brought hundreds of Falash Mura to Israel each month. Now, according to Waldman, there are only 200 left in the compound awaiting clarification of their status. But if the government thought that by closing the compound, the "Ethiopian problem" would finally go away, it was mistaken.

No sooner had Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu announced that he would greet the last planeload of refugees from Addis Ababa, then 100 Israeli Ethiopians originating from the Quara district came to Jerusalem to accuse the government of abandoning 2,500 members of their community, stranded for the past six years in their villages in Quara and in the provincial capital of Gondar.

Meanwhile, Waldman and heads of the Falash Mura's powerful advocacy group here, South Wing to Zion, including Avraham Nagosa and Avshalom Elitzur, launched a campaign to save the rest of the Falash Mura, whom they estimate at 15,000 and say are in great danger. They claim that 6,300 Falash Mura refugees have fled to Addis Ababa in the past few months from their villages in Gondar because of severe persecution. In accordance with last year's agreement, none of the newcomers have been registered in the compound and they receive no aid.

Over the past few weeks, the Quara Jews' story has gained poignancy and a human face thanks to the efforts of the first three Israelis ever to have visited the remote district on the Sudanese border. They include two hikers, Nir Katz and Emuna Landau, and Ethiopian activist and *Jerusalem Report* correspondent Micha Odenheimer.

In the spring of 1997, Katz came to Ethiopia. Being a serious hiker who did not like the beaten track, he decided to visit the Sudanese border area. He is secular and was not particularly interested in Jewish issues.

After reaching the Quara region, however, Katz was told by Christian villagers that there are "Israelites like you" in nearby Galago. On a last-minute impulse, Katz decided to go. On his first morning in Galago, he met Amara, the charismatic leader of the community.

"An old man approached me and asked me where I was from," recalled Katz. 'Israel,' I said. 'I am also from Israel,' he replied. 'Why didn't you immigrate?' I asked. 'I didn't want to,' he said." It turned out, said Katz, that Amara had wanted very much to immigrate but had been unable to. In 1993, Israeli officials in Gondar, who were organizing an airlift of the Quara Jews, told him to go home and wait.

From the stories of Katz and Landau, who spent a month together in Quara interviewing the Jews, and from Odenheimer's report, the following story emerges:

Quara is an ancient Jewish Ethiopian community. In 1985, it split in two, for reasons that are not entirely clear. Apparently it was caused by a power struggle over political/religious leadership among two sections of the same clan. The impulse to move away may have been strengthened by the fact that there were rich, empty agricultural tracts to the west.

The Jews thus split into the communities of Upper and Lower Quara. Lower Quara was located at the foot of a 1,200 bluff separating the two areas, a three-day, difficult walk from Upper Quara. None of the Quaran Jews were able to participate in Operation Solomon because the guerrillas controlled the region and would not allow anyone to leave. But the war ended soon afterwards.

Micha Feldman, the Jewish Agency field operator in Ethiopia, said that as soon as the war was over, he arranged for the *kessim* (Ethiopian spiritual leaders) and the elders of the Quara community to meet him in Gondar and draw up a list of the members of the community. The leaders, headed by Kess Tayen, recorded the names of the 3,500 Jews of Upper Quara but omitted the 2,500 Jews of Lower Quara. According to Feldman, Tayen said he had not been in touch with them and did not know whether or not they were still Jews.

According to Katz and Landau, the omission was deliberate, an act of revenge for several incidents which had further marred relations between the two communities. Not knowing that he was not on the list, Amara came to Gondar and was turned back. He returned to Galago. However many other Quaran Jews who were not on the list or somehow missed the flight to Israel, remained in Gondar and set up another refugee community like the one in Addis Ababa. The difference between the two communities is that the Jewish organizations do not operate in Gondar and the refugees receive no aid.

According to Nagosa and Elitzur, there are now some 2,000 refugees in Gondar. Some have been languishing there for five years.

Katz spent a week in Galago and then returned with Landau for a month. During that time, they examined the customs of the community in Lower Quara to make sure that they were Jews, and asked the leaders to draw up a list of all its members.

They also became deeply attached to the community and outraged over what they considered to be the unnecessary suffering and poverty its members had endured over the past five six years, when they could have been, and, in their opinion, should have been, here.

"Meanwhile," said Katz, "three or four of them are dying each month. And that's not just a statistic. We knew them personally." Since their return, this unlikely pair of young backpackers barely out of school have become activists for the Ethiopians, lobbying intensely, unafraid to confront the most powerful people in the country for the release of the remaining Jews of Quara.

But according to activists on behalf of the Falash Mura community, it is not only the Jews of Quara who are in distress. Over the past few months, several of them, including Waldman, Nagosa, Elitzur and NACOEJ director Barbara Ribakove Gordon have visited Ethiopia and returned with accounts that the Falash Mura are being persecuted, forced off their land, burned out of their homes and sometimes killed.

The reports have concentrated on three issues: the living conditions of the refugee community in Gondar (which includes Falash Mura but mainly consists of Quara Jews), the mass flight of Falash Mura refugees to Addis Ababa, and the attacks on the Falash Mura in their native villages which kindled the flight.

In April, Waldman visited the village of Buchara and found that the Falash Mura were patrolling their neighborhood armed with rifles because of attacks by their neighbors. "They told me they had no choice but to leave and get to Addis Ababa," said Waldman. "I told them not to leave their village."

A few weeks later, Waldman continued, Elitzur visited the same village and found 15 of the thatched huts inhabited by the Falash Mura burned to the ground. The Falash Mura had abandoned the village.

In his report, Elitzur listed many other acts of persecution. "Einish Lakau, from the village of Gobia, told us that her 30-year-old son, Takla Gabra, was murdered three months earlier," he wrote. "Kasau Warknach, from Gobia, Takka's brother-in-law, was shot in the leg and shoulder. Bakla Mekit, a blind man from the village of Dvarga in Chilga District, told us that he fled from his village after his home and property were burned. He said his children saved him from the fire." There are many similar stories.

NACOEJ director Ribakove Gordon spent one day among the refugees in Gondar. "We saw 100 refugees walking down the street and camping out beside the immigration office, even though it was Sunday and the office was closed," she recalled. "When we started talking to them, person after person asked us for a place to pray. Only afterwards did they ask for medical help or schooling, and all of this in the context of their very urgent desire to go to Israel and join their families."

'Every hovel had someone who was too sick to get up and greet us. We gathered that there was a great deal of tuberculosis and that it could easily spread in such cramped and airless quarters'

NACOEJ director Barbara Ribakove Gordon

Afterwards, she continued, "we went to see some of the hovels, which are appalling. Every hovel had someone who was too sick to get up and greet us. We gathered that there was a great deal of tuberculosis and that it could easily spread in such cramped and airless quarters. The children are ragged, barefoot and have swollen bellies."

Sadly, there seems to be competition between the advocates of the Quara Jews and the Falash Mura as to whose situation is more desperate and who should be helped first. Katz and Landau feel that the reason the Quara Jews have been neglected for the past five years is because the authorities' attention was focused on the Falash Mura.

Over the past year, this has certainly been true. According to Raphael Cohen, head of the Interior Ministry's Population Registry Authority, "since the decision to close the compound in 1997, most of the attention, at my orders, has been devoted to that aim."

The fact is, however, that between 1993 and 1997, the authorities paid little attention to either Gondar or Addis Ababa. After the exodus of the 3,500 Upper Quaran Jews in 1992-93, only a handful of Ethiopians came to Israel each month.

Still, Katz and Landau felt that once the compound was closed, the Quaran Jews would finally, belatedly, have their day. Now they fear that the Falash Mura issue will once again take precedence. "We kept quiet for a year, until the compound was closed," said Katz. "Now, two days ago, suddenly they start talking about another 15,000 Falash Mura."

Much more serious than the rivalries between the activists are the tensions between them, the Jewish organizations, the government and the Jewish Agency.

Feldman and the JDC blame the Falash Mura activists for exacerbating the villagers' plight by allegedly encouraging them to leave their homes and flee to Addis Ababa.

"Just by visiting the Falash Mura villages, they not only encourage them to go to Addis Ababa, they also endanger their lives by cutting them off from their sources of income," charged Feldman.

"Even if they do not actively encourage the villagers to leave, by virtue of the fact that a person belonging to a Jewish organization comes and tells them that the organization is taking their people from Addis Ababa to Israel, and brings them photographs of their relatives in Israel, he is telling them to go to Addis without actually putting it into words."

There are also growing tensions between the government and NACOEJ over the question of NACOEJ's future operations in Ethiopia. In the context of the decision to close the compound, the JDC and NACOEJ agreed to leave Ethiopia altogether and concentrate their activities on behalf of the Ethiopian Jews in Israel.

The director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, Moshe Leon, reiterated that position in a letter to Ribakove Gordon on May 18. He explained that the organization's humanitarian operations only served to encourage its recipients to believe that they would be eventually admitted to Israel, even if they were not eligible by law.

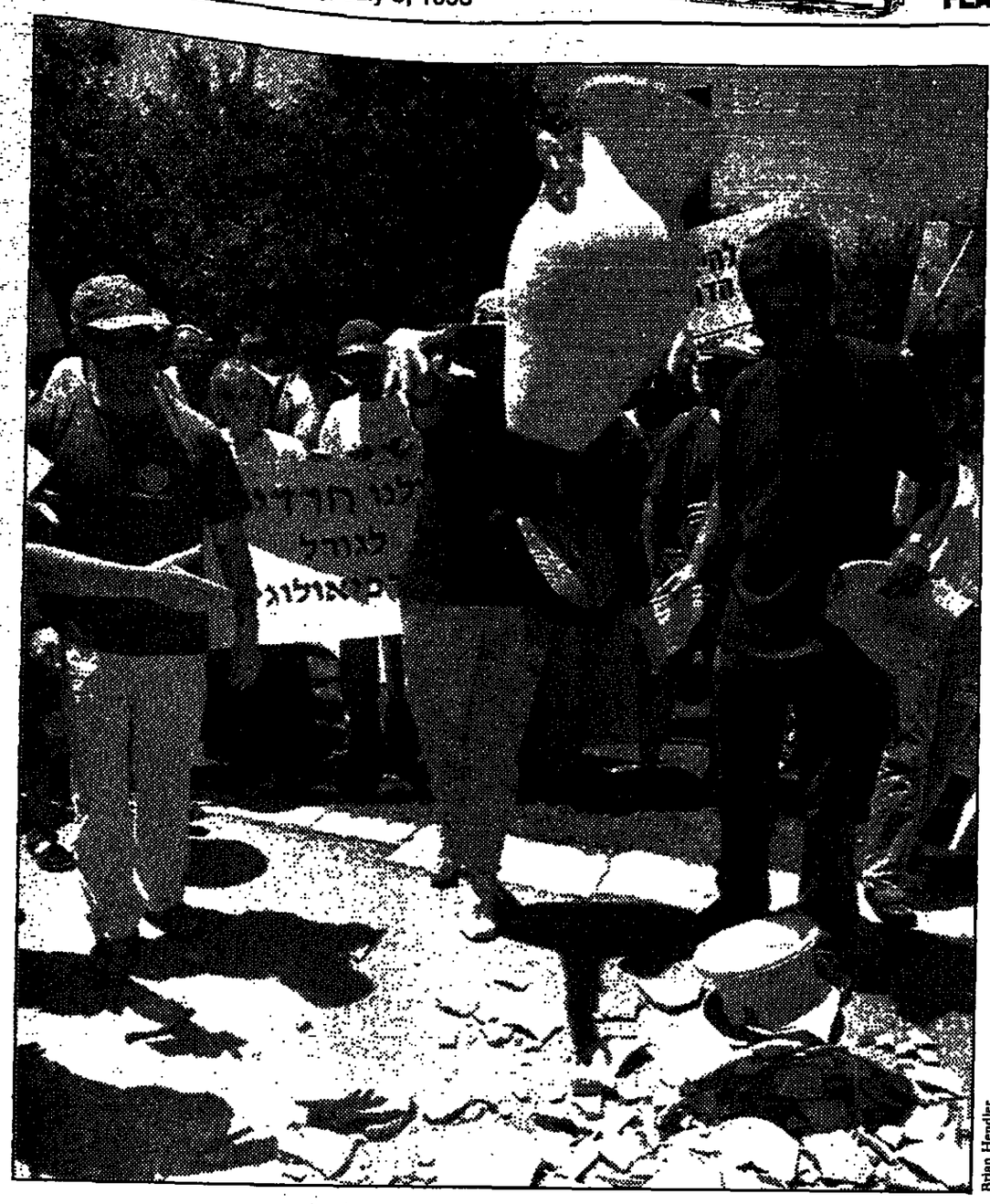
Ami Bergman, head of JDC's Ethiopian desk, said he agreed with the government position. From now on, said Bergman, the JDC will offer assistance only to Ethiopians who have been approved for immigration by the Interior Ministry on the basis of the Law of Return.

NACOEJ, however, is no longer sure that it will withdraw from Ethiopia. In view of the reports form Gondar, Addis Abba and the provincial villages, "there is a radically different situation today," said Ribakove Gordon.

Government officials, the JDC and the Jewish Agency are not happy to hear about Ribakove Gordon's second thoughts. As far as they are concerned, nothing has happened to alter the decision to close the compound and shut down humanitarian operations altogether in Ethiopia.

Raphael Cohen said he doubted Nagosa's estimate of 6,300 new Falash Mura refugees in Addis. According to Bergman, the homes in the villages were burned down only after the Falash Mura had abandoned them.

There are still many unresolved issues and controversies involving the Jewish and Falash Mura communities in Ethiopia. One thing is certain, however: government announcements to the contrary notwithstanding, the story of the ingathering of the Jews of Ethiopia is far from over.





Brian Hendler

Ariel Jerozolimski

(Above) Demonstrating against excavations in the Mamilla area of Jerusalem: Haredim don't object to archeology per se, but rather to depriving ancestors of the eternal rest which is their due; (left) Protesters break pottery to symbolize "the end of archeology" in a demonstration outside the Knesset this week.

Bones of contention

Archeology has absorbed some serious blows over the last few years. Now archeologists fear haredi political pressure will produce a fatal one. Abraham Rabinovich reports on the latest round in the "dry bones" dispute

Familiar with ritual sacrifice in antiquity, Israeli archeologists took to the streets this week to forestall being offered up on the altar of religious politics.

A demonstration by 300 employees of the Antiquities Authority, emerging Wednesday from their excavation pits like outraged coal miners, came in the wake of unconfirmed press reports that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu had bowed to demands by the haredi parties to fire the director of the Authority, Amir Drori, and replace him with someone from the religious camp.

The haredim are also pressing for replacement of the present Archeological Council, which oversees archeological activity in Israel, with one that would include haredim.

The "dry bones" dispute has become a metaphor for the ongoing tensions between religion and modernity here, although that is somewhat misleading.

Haredim do not object to archeology per se. According to the national religious newspaper *Hatzofeh* this week, many believe that archeological findings only confirm the eternal truths of the Torah.

What they object to is depriving ancestors of the eternal rest which is their due.

"Would you want your grandfather's grave dug up and his bones examined in a laboratory?" they ask.

Only about five percent of human remains excavated in Israel are identified by archeologists as Jewish; the bulk are pagan, dating as far back as prehistoric eras, with Christian, Moslem and Jewish following in that order.

But the haredim decline to accept archeologists' assurances about who was or wasn't a Jew. A Byzantine tomb may be carved with crosses but, they argue, who is to say that Jews were not buried there at a later stage?

UNTIL FOUR years ago the question at issue was not "Who is a Jew?" but "Who is an Antiquity?"

Israel's Antiquity Law describes as an antiquity any man-made artifact predating 1700 CE and any zoological or botanical remains predating 1300 CE. Animal bones fall into the zoological category but so do the remains of humans unfortunate enough to have died before 1300. All such bones were taken to a laboratory for cleaning and study.

Anthropologists can learn from human bones much about the population that inhabited a site – gender, age spread, health – and about whether they died of natural or unnatural causes.

The discovery of women in the cemetery at Qumran, for instance, shocked scholars who believed the Dead Sea Scroll site to have been an all-male Jewish monastery. From a tomb on Givat Hamivtar in northern Jerusalem came a 2,000-year-old heel bone with a nail driven through it – the only remains of an ancient crucifixion ever found anywhere.

Anthropologists are able to determine whether a particular population was afflicted by disease or was living in a time of plenty. Tracing the development of maladies like tuberculosis and leprosy through ancient bones, as was being done here, has relevance for modern medical researchers, says anthropologist Joe Zias.

After examination, the human bones were eventually handed over to the Ministry for Religious Affairs for reburial.

In 1994, haredim rioted over the plan to move graves found on Jerusalem's French Hill during construction of a bridge. Mosbe Shahal, police minister at the time, then asked attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair for a ruling on whether ancient human bones were the domain of the archeologists or the local burial society.

Ben-Yair issued a watershed ruling that human bones were no longer to be considered antiquities. Instead of being removed for study, they were to be handed over immediately to representatives of the Religious Affairs Ministry for reburial.

"It was a serious blow to science," says Zias, formerly of the Antiquities Authority.

"It wiped out a whole field of study," says Gideon Avni, director of the authority's Jerusalem District.

Since the ruling, bones are dutifully handed over the day they are found, says a senior archeologist, after an anthropologist has had a chance to make basic determinations such as gender, age and numbers of the deceased.

Sometimes, the religious representative does not reach the site until the next day. In other cases, when there is uncertainty about whether the bones are human or animal, they may be taken to a laboratory for a brief examination.

Remains that are clearly Jewish, like those found in ossuaries, are buried in a Jewish cemetery. The rest are buried in a cemetery in the Lachish area for those of uncertain origin.

IN ADDITION to handing over bones for speedy burial, archeologists have also stopped deliberately targeting tombs for excavation.

Apart from the bones they contain, tombs are key sources of information about ancient cultures. Knowledge about ancient Judaism has been immeasurably enriched by inscriptions and artifacts found in tombs in Jerusalem's Hinnom Ridge, Beit Shearim and elsewhere.

For the past decade, however, the Antiquities Authority no longer excavates sites known beforehand to be cemeteries.

Nevertheless, burial sites are frequently uncovered by bulldozers in the course of building roads and other construction activity. In these cases, the authority must by law excavate the site – so-called "salvage excavations" – before construction can resume.

Major building projects, particularly in Jerusalem, have been held up for years by the refusal of haredim to permit construction work that might endanger ancient graves.

"Work on Road No. 4 (the major north-south road through the city opened last month) was held up for more than two years because the haredim claimed there were graves on the right-of-way," says Avni. "After we finally got the permission of the chief rabbi of Jerusalem we dug and found there were no graves."

In northern Jerusalem, he says, some 1,500 new apartments in Pisgat Ze'ev cannot be occupied because of the refusal of haredim for the past two-and-a-half years to permit the moving of graves uncovered while building the extension of the city's Road No. 1.

Instead of using force to keep haredi protesters at a distance, as was done during the City of David excavations in the 1980s, the initiators of these projects – the government or municipality – prefer to avoid the political risk and to seek out rabbinical authorities who might intercede on their behalf.

In Pisgat Ze'ev, a halachic solution appeared to have been reached last week involving the drilling of a hole scores of meters beneath the present ground level and the internment of the bones there. For reasons unknown, this solution, promoted by some of the most prominent halachic authorities in Israel, fell through on the haredi side.

Only 5-10% of archeological activity leads to confrontations with haredim, says Avni, but these instances often involve major construction projects whose sites must first be excavated by the Antiquities Authority before the contractors can begin building.

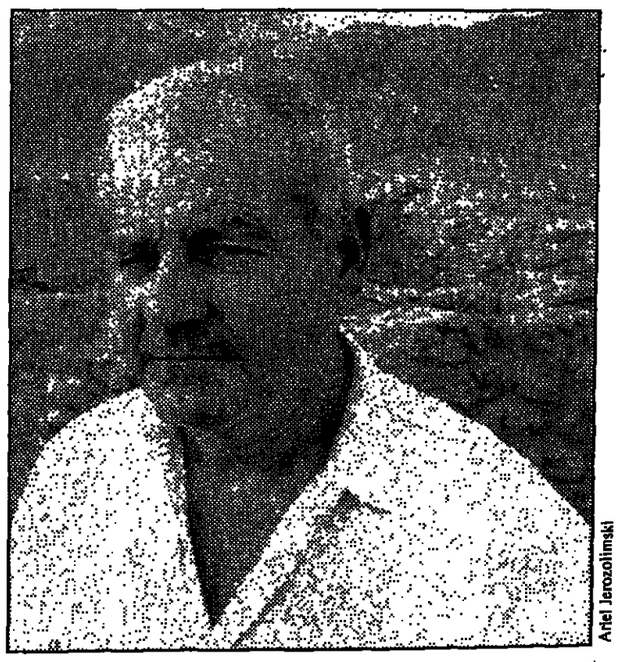
ALTHOUGH SOME modern religious leaders declare that graves can be moved to enable road construction or to meet other public needs – as was indeed done in antiquity – the tone in the haredi camp is set by a voluntary organization, Atra Kadisha, led by Rabbi David Shmidl.

A soft-spoken but firm-minded scholar, Rabbi Shmidl opposes virtually any tampering with the dead.

It is in keeping with his hard line that haredi MKs are trying to infiltrate the Archeological Council with haredim and replace Drori. But despite the political debt Netanyahu owes the haredim and the pledges he may have made to them on this issue, it is not at all sure that he will be able to satisfy them, given the sentiments of some of his secular coalition partners.

Drori himself believes the haredim should be offering up prayers of thanksgiving on his behalf instead of laying black curses upon him.

"If not for the authority, the graves would simply be destroyed by the contractors' bulldozers," he says. "This way, the bones are given over to the religious authorities for reburial."



Ariel Jerozolimski

Amir Drori, besieged head of the Antiquities Authority: The haredi parties are demanding his removal.

Rabbi Shmidl, attuned to the sleep of the ages, remains unimpressed.



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The man who was undermined

Eliahu Ben-Elissar leaves his ambassador's posting in Washington without obvious bitterness against a prime minister who didn't let him do his job. He talked to Hillel Kuttler about his next stop

Eliahu Ben-Elissar's ambassadorship to Washington got off on the wrong foot.

And like a man whose shoelaces have been tied together by naughty pranksters, Ben-Elissar stumbled his way through two frustrating years.

But in mid-July, the soon-to-be 66-year-old will dance out the embassy's door with his wife Nitza, and in early September he will step into Paris as the new envoy.

It will be a welcome fresh start.

Ben-Elissar never wanted to come to Washington – not as a first choice, anyway. According to an Israeli diplomat, he aspired to be Speaker of the Knesset, but Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu torpedoed the nomination because Ben-Elissar had supported Ze'ev (Benny) Begin for Likud head.

Chosen by then-foreign minister David Levy for the US position, Ben-Elissar was frequently snubbed and even humiliated by Netanyahu.

The Levy-Netanyahu feud sabotaged him from the beginning. American policymakers, Israeli diplomats and Jewish organizational heads all saw Ben-Elissar as a powerless Israeli representative. And once Levy resigned, Ben-Elissar lost what little safety net he had.

Ben-Elissar appeared to be continually fending off Israeli leaks that he was about to be replaced, and last year he flew back to Jerusalem to fight for his job.

Even a congressional adviser pitied him, saying this week: "No, of course you didn't feel his input, because Bibi didn't want it felt. The poor guy – his boss didn't want him to do his job.

"He's very nice, very personable, very charming. But I never got the feeling he knew what was going on."

Throughout his time in Washington, and even in the past two months since announcing his resignation and new posting, Ben-Elissar has taken the high road, concealing any bitterness over his Washington experience.

In a farewell interview on Wednesday he opened up a bit, but did not launch any full-scale attack against his higher-ups. Instead, he conceded he had gambled and lost.

"I didn't expect problems with the prime minister. Had I thought it would be like this I wouldn't have resigned from the Knesset," Ben-Elissar said when asked what he had anticipated upon arriving here in September 1996. "It was my decision. I don't blame anyone."

Ben-Elissar endured slights not often seen in the city's diplomatic corps.

In January, when Netanyahu was invited to the White House as part of US President Bill Clinton's effort to restart Israeli-Palestinian talks, Ben-Elissar was excluded from the meeting. When Cabinet Secretary Dan Naveh and Netanyahu adviser Uzi Arad visited the State Department, they left Ben-Elissar in the car outside.

Ben-Elissar has no gripe with Netanyahu over the latter episode, noting that he raised it with Jerusalem and it didn't recur. Naveh is the point man for the Palestinian talks, and Arad for enlisting American support against Russia's missile and nuclear cooperation with Iran.

"[On that] the prime minister can decide; it's fine," Ben-Elissar said. The White House slap was different.

"I think the prime minister made a mistake when he didn't bring me in to meet with the president. It's not done. It sends a certain message," Ben-Elissar said, calmly but with determination.

GIVEN the animosity between Levy and Netanyahu, Ben-Elissar might have foreseen difficulties ahead. But he didn't, though he "knew I had to have the prime minister's support.

"You don't refuse Washington," he said of the offer Netanyahu and Levy made to him two years ago. "And the bottom line is the prime minister sent me here.

"[He and Levy] selected me. [Netanyahu] invited me to his office and told me he had two offers: ambassador to Washington or to the UN.

"From the beginning I said the UN didn't interest me, but that I was prepared to consider Washington. I didn't ask for it....

"Washington is Washington. It's a very senior job, considered in Israel to be on the level of a member of the government... I thought that after being the first ambassador to Egypt, there was no other ambassadorship to get!"

Asked how he had contributed to the peace process that has been run mostly through Washington since Netanyahu's election, Ben-Elissar's response underlined his untenable position.

"The one in Israel who holds the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations in his hands is the prime minister – period. Everyone can rally around and help. Maybe my contribution helped a little. But the prime minister's the one who does it. No one else but the prime minister makes the contribution – for good and for bad," the ambassador said.



September 1997: Ben-Elissar returns briefly to Jerusalem to fight for his job amid leaks that he is about to be replaced. (Brian Hendler)

"And of course a prime minister maintaining such close contact with the American president and administration, and who was here as much as he has been over two years – there's been nothing like it. This is face-to-face and telephone diplomacy, no doubt about it."

Ben-Elissar is particularly proud of having worked respectfully with all streams of the American Jewish community during a time when proposed amendments to the immigration law stirred angry Reform and Conservative Jews into confronting the Netanyahu government.

He also is satisfied with his efforts to clarify the government's positions on the peace process to the administration and Congress by explaining "the political reality that exists in Israel."

At a farewell luncheon the Washington Institute for Near East Policy hosted last week, Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk toasted Ben-Elissar as "somebody I've always relied on" to provide a "sophisticated analysis of the complex political situation in Israel."

Indyk joked about the goateed Ben-Elissar's resemblance to former surgeon-general C. Everett Koop and, more seriously, alluded to the difficult period the two allies are enduring.

"In the time you've been here, which has not been an easy time for Israel, you have demonstrated considerable distinction and style and diplomatic elegance," Indyk said. "It was a very intense period, and you've represented your country with great effectiveness."

WITHIN a month of arriving in Washington, Ben-Elissar, in the words of a fellow Israeli diplomat, found himself "thrown into the fire."

The government had just opened the Western Wall Tunnel exit in Jerusalem's Old City, setting off a major crisis between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. Violence erupted as Palestinians rioted to protest the tunnel's opening. The situation deteriorated into gun battles and the administration sought to prevent a catastrophe.

Ben-Elissar appeared on TV talk shows to make Israel's case. He helped prepare for the emergency summit that Clinton quickly convened. He considered it "an intense" yet not particularly difficult period.

"I felt the Palestinians were manipulating [the tunnel opening]," he said. "It was a crisis. It immediately moved [up] to the level of the leaders. I don't remember it as a tough period of my life. To be thrown into Cairo was tougher....

"I explained to the Americans that it was a Palestinian pretext, that the tunnel had been there a long time, that it was just an exit that was opened. I don't have any pretensions that I succeeded in explaining – I *tried* to explain."

Two years ago, observers described the tenure of then-departing ambassador, Itamar Rabinovich, as the pinnacle of American-Israeli relations.

The same could hardly be said of Rabinovich's successor.

At a consuls-general meeting in New York in March, Ben-Elissar delivered what one participant described as a "doomsday presentation" of how Jerusalem was "on the brink of a disastrous situation" in its relations with Washington.

Foreign ministry director-general Eitan Bentsur then offered a "a very understated" and "totally different" outlook on the state of American-Israeli relations. "Everyone knew Eli's presentation was not correct," said the participant, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

APPROACHING his departure date, Ben-Elissar has moderated his opinion regarding Israel's staunchest ally. He believes the US's intensive mediation will produce an Israeli-Palestinian deal leading to Israel's redeployment in the territories and the launching of final status negotiations. All sides will have to make compromises, he said.

The strains resulting from Washington's impatience with Jerusalem's prolonged decision-making will do no harm to the "interweaving" of bilateral ties, Ben-Elissar said. At the same time, he suggested that the administration give Israel more elbow room.

"Sometimes you feel that the Americans are forgetting that the Middle East has its own pace, its own tempo," he said. "You can't force things. Things come to a resolution only when they're ripe [for it]. As Middle Easterners, we're used to this. The Americans sometimes have to be convinced of it.

"There is, of course, an Israeli frustration. We want it to be more understood... [that] it can take time."

An American fellow diplomat who has dealt with Ben-Elissar declined to comment on his counterpart, citing "ethical" considerations. He would only say that the two enjoyed a "very cordial relationship."

The remark goes a long way toward encapsulating Ben-Elissar's difficulties here. He is hailed for his demeanor – what a congressional source called his "courtly, European gentleman" appearance – to the extent that no one wants to hurt his feelings because they apparently recognize the limitations under which he served.

Senator Joseph Lieberman, a personal friend of the Ben-Elissars, said the two never discussed those difficulties.

In meetings on Capitol Hill, Ben-Elissar effectively defended a government that faced public criticism and, in so doing, "never demonstrated anything but complete fidelity to the prime minister," said Lieberman.

'In Israel there are big experts on the US. There aren't such big experts on France. So maybe it'll be easier for me'

But an Israeli diplomat called Ben-Elissar's service "an ambassadorship of stagnation."

"If you're strong enough and smart and well-connected, you could do things," he said. "I don't see that here." That said, he added, Ben-Elissar was "trapped" because "they pulled the rug out from under him everywhere he went."

Another Israeli diplomat, who also spoke anonymously, called Ben-Elissar's serving here an idea that was "bad from the beginning."

"This is what you get: When you appoint someone for the wrong reasons; the results cannot be good."

Ben-Elissar will be replaced by Zalman Shoval, who served as US ambassador to Washington under Yitzhak Shamir from 1990-1993.

The ambassador himself expects to have a greater impact in Paris, where he studied during the 1950s. He has no pretensions of altering France's Middle East policies, but hopes that his fluency in French and familiarity with the country's culture can help him better present Israel's case.

However, Ben-Elissar's welcome in Paris may not be completely wholehearted. During the Gulf War, he angered the French by sharply criticizing their cooperation with Iraq, saying it endangered Israel. The French may still remember.

In any case, as he leaves for Paris, Ben-Elissar cryptically gets in a final dig at whoever made his Washington service so miserable.

"In Israel there are big experts on the US," he said, slipping on his jacket for a luncheon with a Palestinian-American businessman. "There aren't such big experts on France. So maybe it'll be easier for me."



Ahuva Suissa (far right) and Geula Tal (far left), with their daughters and those of other Shas MKs, enjoy the Jerusalem Hilton spa.

GRAPEVINE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

It seems President **Ezer Weizman** prefers royalty to mere prime ministers. At a garden dinner party hosted in the president's honor by British Ambassador **David Manning** and his wife, **Catherine**, to mark the end of Britain's presidency of the European Union, Weizman told the select, assembled guests – mainly ambassadors and their spouses from other EU countries – that whatever Britain does as part of its integration into the EU, it must at all costs "keep the queen!" Weizman proudly disclosed that he and Queen Elizabeth corresponded regularly, and that he had recently received a letter from the queen mother.

SEVERAL faculty members of the University of Toronto celebrated Canada Day not on their home territory, but in Israel. Led by university president **J. Robert S. Prichard**, vice president of research and international relations **Heather Monroe-Blum**, and chancellor emirita **Rose Wolfe** the U of T scholars came here within the framework of initiatives to strengthen partnerships between the university and Israeli institutions of higher learning, and participated in the Conference of the Israeli Association for Canadian Studies.

The University of Toronto, which collaborates in many disciplines with Israeli universities, has a highly respected Jewish studies program. Generous donations from members of the Toronto Jewish community have enabled the establishment of five chairs and one professorship to foster and promote research collaboration and exchange with Israel. Among the endowments is a recent $2 million gift from **Andrea** and **Charles Bronfman**, who have established a chair in Israel studies. The Bronfmans have also contributed generously to Israeli universities. Other gifts received by the University of Toronto have enabled the creation of a $7.5 million endowment to support U of T students who wish to study in Israel.

BEING a teenage girl isn't much fun when you find yourself often taking care of younger siblings because your mother is attending an enrichment workshop and your father is attending to affairs of state. So **Ahuva Suissa**, wife of Interior Minister **Eliahu Suissa**, organized a tour of the Knesset and personal beauty consultations for 12 teenage daughters of seven of the 10 Shas ministers and MKs. After visiting their fathers' offices, the girls, including Suissa's own daughter **Galit**, **Miri Tal**, daughter of MK **David Tal**, and **Simha** and **Shifi Deri**, daughters of Shas leader **Aryeh Deri**, enjoyed the luxury of the Jerusalem Hilton spa as the guests of **Gila Lapidot**, who has the franchise for Darphin cosmetic treatments at all Hilton spas. Miri Tal, who bears a startling resemblance to supermodel **Natalie Attiya**, emerged as the most complexion-conscious young woman in the room, stating it was something she had learned from her mother, who was also present. The smooth-faced **Geula Tal** explained that skin care was a family tradition. Her grandmother, she said, used to coat her face in margarine before going to sleep.

"It smelled awful," she said, "but she didn't have any wrinkles."



Tichon: a modern Rapunzel (Paz Barr)

ANYONE entering the reception area of the Metropolitan Hotel in Tel Aviv for the changing of the guard of LOT Polish Airlines could have been forgiven for thinking that they'd stumbled upon the conference of the World Federation of Polish Jews, which took place several days later in Ashkelon. The reason: Nearly everyone present was chatting in Polish.

Proficiency in the language seems to be an unofficial qualification for Tel Aviv travel agents. After five years here, during which time traffic in both directions increased appreciably, the genial **Tadeusz Kopytowski**, who is retiring from the company, handed over the reins to **Jozef Skup**, who felt instantly at home. Also on hand were ambassador **Wojciech Adamiecki**, Counsellor **Piotr Puchta**, several Polish nuns and priests, and Polish UN personnel. Kopytowski, who has made many friends here, said that he may set up a travel agency of his own if retirement becomes too boring.

As he pointed out, he has all the right connections.

ALTHOUGH the weather was extremely humid, the company was so pleasant that many of the guests invited to the home of Slovenian Ambassador **Darja Bavdaz Kuret** and her husband **Milos** stayed on well after the wind-up time listed on the invitation. Just as well, since MK **Ephraim Sneh** arrived at the tail-end of the festivities and made a beeline for veteran CBS correspondent **Bob Simon**, who a few days later left with his ever-elegant wife **Francoise** for a hiking trip in the French Alps.

Travel was definitely in the air among the guests. Newly retired state comptroller **Miriam Ben-Porat** had just returned from a trip to Slovenia; **Reiko Uchiyama**, organizer of Japanese arts and cultural events, and **Sugi Sakow** had returned from Turkey only a few hours before the reception. Their husbands **Tom Hinton**, a senior executive with the British Council, and **Constan Sakow**, the press attache at the French embassy, are avid soccer fans, and the two women decided to give them several days of freedom to indulge their passion while they went shopping in Turkey. The popular Sakows are just starting to make their farewells before leaving next month for their new posting in Manila.

SPEAKING at Tel Aviv's Enav Cultural Center at the annual Lerner Prize awards ceremony, Professor **Anita Shapira** commented, after a rendition of Yiddish songs by the Hora Jerusalem choir, that when her mother was ill she had brought her a cassette tape of **Hava Alberstein** singing Yiddish songs. The following day, she asked her mother how she had enjoyed the tape, and got a dismissive snort in response. When Shapira enquired further, the reply was that Alberstein "sings with a Galician accent." Shapira wondered what her mother would have said about the accents of the Hora choir members, most of whom are of North African background.

Among the life's work prizewinners were **Nechama Lifshitz**, who was known as the nightingale of Soviet Jewry, and prominent Soviet Yiddish actress **Ettel Kubinska**. Because there were so many Russian immigrants in the audience who had personally been touched by Lifshitz and Kubinska, the two women received more flowers than anyone else – which somewhat embarrassed Israel Prize laureate **Leah Koenig**, also a Lerner laureate. Koenig received a single slender bouquet as she was returning to her seat, and held it aloft like a victory cup.

IT'S not often that **Ludmilla Tichon**, wife of Knesset Speaker **Dan Tichon**, lets her hair down. But when she arrived at Jerusalem's Chen Hotel for the gala dinner and auction hosted by the Moriah Chapter of B'nai B'rith in support of patients at the Eitanim Hospital for the Mentally Ill, she looked like a latter-day *Rapunzel*, with her golden tresses reaching to her waist.

Although it wasn't planned that way, Tichon spent most of the night on her feet helping auctioneer, actor and candid camera personality **Yehuda Barkan** raise many thousands of dollars for the cause. Yes – the bids were in dollars, not in shekels, with Barkan establishing a new rate of exchange: 3 NIS to $1.

Seen among the guests were Internal Security Minister **Avigdor Kahalani**, Bezeq chief **Izzy Tapoohi**, internationally acclaimed photographer **David Rubinger**, mayoral candidates **Shimon Shetreet** and **Elisha Peleg**, and **Miriam Bonfil**, who recently triumphed in the Na'amat elections in the capital. The NIS 400-a-plate dinner was donated by hotel proprietor **Shaul Ella** and his brothers.

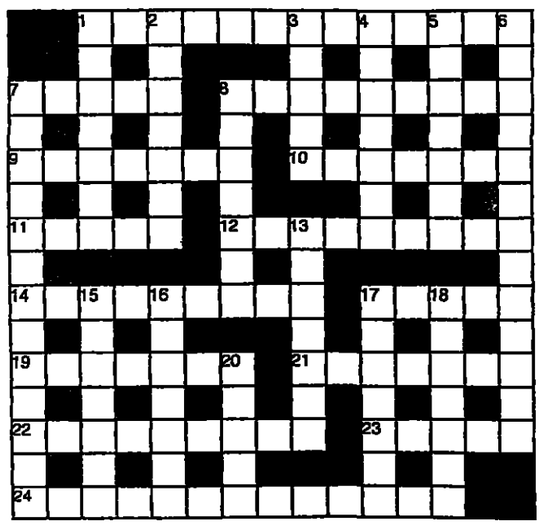
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Hamlet tricky to understand? How you tease (4,4,2,3)
7 To be corpulent, boy, is disastrous (5)
8 A piece in ivory made for emperor (9)
9 Effective as policeman? (2,5)
10 Henry greatly irritates the supporters (7)
11 Channel close to point in field (5)
12 Bystander has magazine (9)
14 Reverse support, and plead for a break (4-5)
17 Spot to hold return exercise—military store (5)
19 Worried by this system in the body? (7)
21 Cooked rice is to rot, sadly (7)
22 A lot of money may go on this pet (9)
23 On balance, extremely serious eating leads to being this (5)
24 Kind offer to read the new order (6-7)

DOWN

1 Contemptible, but arousing sympathy (7)
2 Sensitive condition makes everyone turn grey (7)
3 Managed to get central heating for farm (5)
4 Hairpiece looks best on granny (7)
5 Coat, say, chap put arm in (7)
6 Certain, in special delight, to go around to find hidden wealth (8,5)
7 Free haircut as worker's perk? (6,7)
8 Lucky to be not so long in bed (7)
13 Blow up general in explosion (7)
15 Vehicle, a further vehicle, and trailer (7)
16 Poke stick into purple vegetables (7)
17 Indulge girl, a good loser (7)
18 The buildings round here are some of mine (7)
20 Susie's first desire is to be fashionable (5)

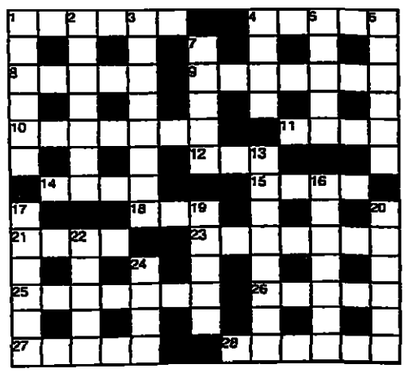


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DOWN: 1 Elation, 2 Against, 3 Tepid, 4 Shelter, 5 Stool, 6 Impel, 9 Elaborate, 14 Pudding, 15 Trainer, 16 Awarded, 19 Apple, 20 Roomy, 21 Brace.



QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Fast trot (6)
4 Europeans (5)
8 Eccentric (5)
9 Echoed (7)
10 Row of houses (7)
11 Officers' dining hall (4)
12 End (3)
14 Untidy woman (4)
15 Orient (4)
18 Part of tennis game (3)
21 Irish (4)
23 Set out again (7)
25 Loss of memory (7)
26 Of the moon (5)
27 Improve by altering text (5)
28 Smear (6)

DOWN

1 Mediaeval painter (6)
2 Factual (7)
3 Hams (8)
4 Fruit (4)
5 Long-handled spoon (5)
6 Torturer (6)
7 Item of worth (5)
13 Clock part (8)
16 Bolt turner (7)
17 Scold (6)
19 Special outing (5)
20 Stiffener (6)
22 Understanding (5)
24 Utilised (4)

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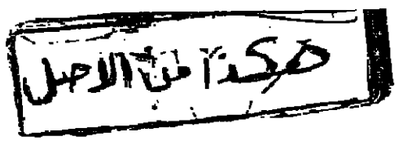
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SALES

HERZLIYA PITUAH VILLA, large, excellent location, fit for diplomats, $2,500,000. ORGRON. Tel. 09-956-8383 [17488]

HERZLIYA PITUACH, PRIVATE studio apt, Daniel Hotel, high floor, seaview, fully furnished and equipped. Cactus Real Estate 09-9580001 [68]

HERZLIYA PITUACH, NEAR sea, quiet, 2.5 + balcony. $270,000 YANIV. Tel. 09-958-0558, Tel. 050-288-521. [12419]

Raanana-new house, Tel Ganim, all modern features, 5 bedrooms, basement. Cactus Real Estate 09-9580001 [68]

HERZLIYA PITUAH - LUXURIOUS apartment with terrace and penthouse. Sea-view, pool, next to beach. Tel. 03-695-5794, 050-216-882. [793108]

DWELLINGS
Haifa and North

RENTALS

HAIFA, SHAR'AR ALIYA (Rehov Hahinanit), 3 exposures, partly furnished, from mid-August. Tel. 04-872-8921, 02-586-1307 [17201]

DWELLINGS
Haifa and North

SALES

EXCLUSIVE IN YAFFE-NOF, Haifa, beautiful, elegant apartment, 130 sq. m.. Breathtaking view. SZAMOSI-GOTTLIEB, Tel. 04-833-5243. [17213]

REALTY
Jerusalem Area

BUSINESS PREMISES

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REALTY
Tel Aviv

PLOT

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BUSINESS OFFERS
General

BUSINESS PREMISES

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BUSINESS OFFERS
Sharon Area

BUSINESS PREMISES

NETANYA, ROOM FOR rent, in dental practice, for any professional purpose. Tel. 09-833-4951 [793171]

SERVICES
General

RENOVATING

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SERVICES
Jerusalem

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SITUATIONS VACANT
General

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International Job Club
Excellent Job Opportunities!
For au pairs, domestic help, childcare and caregivers for elderly. Great conditions. High salary, live in/out, countrywide.
Tel. 03-688-6767, 052-891034

Our agency has almost 20 years experience, live-in (only) au pairs, mother's helpers, nanny's and housekeepers
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The agency always referred to by other au pairs
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SITUATIONS VACANT
Jerusalem

HOUSEHOLD HELP

HOUSEKEEPER 4 MORNINGS a week with references. Tel. 02-675-0472 (NS) [793559]

RELIGIOUS FAMILY WANTS live-in help, Har Nof, Jerusalem. Tel. 02-651-9773 (NS). [793526]

CHILD-CARE, 4 AFTERNOONS, light housework, 2 children, references. Tel. 02-586-2736 [703181]

FOREIGN WORKER, EXPERIENCED for housekeeping. Tel. Tammy, 050-332-202. [793564]

CANADIAN FAMILY SEEKS loving nanny. Live-in. Excellent terms. Tel. 02-563-0991 (evenings). [793188]

METAPELET / STUDENT, 2 children (2 yrs. + 4 yrs.), July - August, flexible hours. Tel. 02-561-7654 (NS).

WARM FAMILY SEEKS help with afternoon childcare. Tel. 02-563-0224, Tel. 02-671-1135. [793567]

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DENTISTS WITH EXPERIENCE + experts, administrative manager, and hygienists. Tel. 02-625-1407 [024070]

SALES PERSONNEL

Adipaz seeks
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★ Personable
★ Ability to speak languages
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(Diana)

SITUATIONS VACANT
Tel Aviv

GENERAL

FOR ART STUDIO, model, African origins. Tel. 03-517-7186. [793555]

MAN / WOMAN for office cleaning, afternoon's work. Tel. 057-280-200 Tel. 052-937-904. [793199]

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EXPERIENCED HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED 24 hours per week. Non-smoker, flexible, some childcare. Tel. 03-648-8287 [793562]

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LIVE-IN/LIVE-OUT WORKER WANTED. Tel. 03-512-4058, 057-280-800. [793039]

LIVE-IN WARM LOVING housekeeper/au pair, English speaking, housekeeping+ childcare. European family, start immediate, for conditions 03-5190423

IMMEDIATE AU-PAIR JOBS available, friendliest families, best conditions, the agency with a heart for the Au Pairs. Call Hilma: (03) 965-9937. [795549]

DON'T DESPAIR- BECOME an au pair!! Don't delay- phone today!! Au pair International has available the most promising and interesting live-in job offers in Israel. Phone 24 hours 03-619-0423. [20344]

AU-PAIR AND HOUSEKEEPER, possible live-in. Tel. 052-518-590, Tel 03-556-4281. [793172]

Live - In
Mature housekeeper
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Childcare + cooking
03-619-0423

The Head Office of the INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE of the RED CROSS in Tel Aviv is looking for an
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Qualifications required: Mother-tongue English, fluent Hebrew, translating ability, computer literacy: reading knowledge of French an advantage. Confidentiality assured.
Send your application and CV by July 10 to: ICRC, 200 Hayarkon St., Tel Aviv 63405 - Fax. 03-527 0370.

HOW TO REACH
THE JERUSALEM POST
ADVERTISING DEPT.
60 Rehov Yirmiyahu, Jerusalem
5 Rehov Hamasger, Tel Aviv
Sunday – Thursday

CLASSIFIED ADS (words)	02-531-5644	Jerusalem
	02-531-5630	
	03-639-0333	Tel Aviv
Sunday – Thursday		
DISPLAY ADS (inches) including Obituaries	02-531-5608	
	02-531-5639	Jerusalem
	02-531-5642	
	03-639-0333	Tel Aviv
FAX: Jerusalem	02-538-8408	
Tel-Aviv	03-639-0277	

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OBITUARIES Weekdays after 5 p.m. Fridays and Saturday nights
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SITUATIONS VACANT
Tel Aviv

EXCLUSIVE AU-PAIR AGENCY in North Tel Aviv seeking qualified, intelligent candidates, high salaries. Tel. 050-620-894. [11789]

EXPERIENCED NANNY FOR one child, near Kikar Rabin (central Tel-Aviv). Tel. 03-524-5236 (Pamela).

FILIPINA/FILIPINO- VISA HOLDER (legal) needed for care of old lady/man, visa supplied, live-in/out 03-6190423

HIGH SALARY FOR metapelet, possible live-in , good conditions. 03-5371036 [793722]

SEEKING: ENGLISH SPEAKING metapelet for 3 girls. Rikki Tel. 03-695-2013 (NS). [793103]

OFFICE STAFF

INTERNATIONAL CO. SEEKING: fluent Spanish/English/Hebrew secretary (Lori). Tel. 03-550-3030 [17456]

SITUATIONS VACANT
Tel Aviv

SEEKING: ENGLISH TYPIST above 50 wpm; immediate position (Mali). Tel. 03-558-5726 [17456]

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Fluent English/Hebrew
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Assertive and dynamic, good presentation, pleasant personality.
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Tel Aviv

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EXPERIENCED ENGLISH TEACHERS for business people in Tel Aviv area. Tel. 050-621-861. [17014]

TURN PAGE FOR MORE CLASSIFIED ADS

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

FFriday, July 3
Jerusalem: Jaffa Gate, Jaffa Gate, Old City, 628-3898; Balsam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.
Tel Aviv: Bloch, 32 Bloch, 522-6425; Achva, 165 Dizengoff, 522-4717.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Kinneret, 119 Weizman, Kfar Sava, 767-3228.
Netanya: Hanasi, 36 Weizman, 882-3639.
Haifa: Derech Hayam, 209 Derech Hayam, 837-1472.
Krayot area: Kupat Holim Clalit Zevulun, 192 Derech Akko, Kiryat Bialik, 878-7818.
Herzliya: New Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Upper Nazareth: New Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, July 4
Jerusalem: (day) Kupat Holim Clalit, Siraus A, 3 Avigdori, 670-6660; (evening) Center Pharm, Har Hotzvim, 586-9744. (day and evening) Balsam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.**Tel Aviv:** Gruso, 27 Sheinkin, 528-4791; Superpharm Gimmel, 1 Achimeir, Ramat Aviv Gimmel, 641-7117.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: (day) Haregil, 47 Rothschild, Kfar Sava, 767-0908; (evening) Shor Tabatchnik, 12 HaSharon, Kfar Sava, 742-5850.
Netanya: Hasharon Mall, Herzl St., 861-7766.
Haifa: Hadas, 53 Horev, 826-2673.
Krayot area: Kupat Holim Clalit Zevulun, 192 Derech Akko, Kiryat Bialik, 878-7818.
Herzliya: New Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 10 a.m. to midnight.
Upper Nazareth: New Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 657-0468. Open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS

Friday, July 3
Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Kerem (internal, pediatrics, ophthalmology); Shaare Zedek (surgery); Bikur Holim (obstetrics, ENT); Hadassah Mt. Scopus (orthopedics).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.

Saturday, July 4
Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Kerem (obstetrics, ophthalmology); Shaare Zedek (surgery); Hadassah Mt. Scopus (internal, orthopedics) Bikur Holim (pediatrics, ENT).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.

POLICE 100

FIRE 102

In emergencies dial 102. Otherwise, dial number of your local station as given in the front of the phone directory.

FIRST AID 101

Magen David Adom
In emergencies dial 101 in most parts of the country. In addition:

Ashdod*	8551333	Kfar Sava*	9902222
Ashkelon	6551332	Nahariya*	9912333
Beersheba*	6274767	Netanya*	9604444
Beit Shemesh	6523133	P. Tikva*	9311111
Dan Region*	5793333	Rehovot*	9451333
Eilat*	6332444	Rishon*	9642333
Haifa*	8512233	Safed	6920333
Jerusalem*	6523133	Tel Aviv*	5480111
Karmiel*	9985444	Tiberias*	6792444

* Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area, around the clock.

Help line for English-speakers – Confidential hot-line counseling and referrals for all ages, all problems. MiLev Center for Crisis Counseling. (02) 654-1111, 1-800-654-111.

Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110.

The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital, phone 04-852-9205 for emergency calls 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

Eran – Emotional First Aid – 1201, also Jerusalem 02-561-0303 (Arabic: 563-0301); Tel Aviv 03-546-1111 (children/youth 546-0739); Rishon Lezion 03-956-6661/2; Haifa 04-867-2222 (Arabic: 867-2226); Beersheba 07-649-4333; Netanya 09-862-5110; Karmiel 04-988-8770 (Arabic: 958-3444); Kfar Sava 09-767-4555; Hadera 06-634-6789; Nazareth (Arabic: 06-645-4222).

Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 523-4819, 544-9191 (men). Jerusalem 625-5558, Haifa 853-0533, Eilat 633-1977.

Crisis Center for Religious Women 02-655-5744/5. 24-hour service, confidentiality guaranteed.

Emergency line for women in distress Sunday-Thursday 24 hrs. a day; Friday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 09-950-5720.

Wizo hotlines for battered women 02-651-4111, 03-546-1133, 07-637-6310, 08-855-0506.

Kupat Holim Information Center 177-022-1906, Sunday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Hadassah/Jerusalem Municipal Health Center for Adolescents, 6 Chile St., Kiryat Hayovel, Jlm. Advice by phone 02-643-3882.

Hadassah Medical Organization – Israel Cancer Association telephone support service 02-624-7676.

Flight arrivals – for information in English 03-972-3344.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

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RELIGIOUS SERVICES

TORA PORTION: *Parashat Chukkat*

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS in Israel, 4 Lincoln, Jerusalem, P.O.B. 592. Worship every Shabbat, in English, Rumanian, Russian, Hebrew, Spanish. Jerusalem, Eilat. 02-625--1547. Haifa, Tel Aviv 04-825-4326. Tel Aviv, Nazareth 060601-0021. Ashkelon, Beersheba 02-625-1547.

JER.-CHRISTIAN

REDEEMER CHURCH , Lutheran, Muristan Rd. Old City, Jerusalem. Sunday services: English 9:00 a.m. German 10:30 a.m. Tel . 6276111,6281049.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

JERUSALEM BAPTIST CHURCH - The Baptist House Center, #4 Narkis Street,Sunday,10:45 a.m.Tel.02-6255942.

KING OF KINGS Assembly. Sun. services 5 pm. YMCA Auditorium, 26 King David St. For information call 02-561-0017.

PENTECOSTAL WORSHIP SERVICE, Mt. Zion Fellowship, Fri., Sat., Sun., 10:30 a.m., 7:30 p.m. Tel. 02-582-8964.

JERUSALEM

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE, 13 King David St. Shabbat morning service, 9:30 a.m.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

MORESHET YISRAEL – Conservative 4 Agron. Dr. Avraham Feder, Rabbi. Mincha, 6:30 p.m., Shacharit, 8:30 a.m. Mincha, 6:50 a.m. Daily Minyan 7 a.m.

TEL AVIV-CHRISTIAN

FRIENDSHIP HOUSE (The Redeemed Christian Church of God). Worship Service Saturdays 10.00 a.m., Saturdays 7:00 p.m., Wednesdays 7:00 p.m. Venue - 30 Levanda Street (3rd Floor),Tel Aviv.Tel. 050-946777.

WHERE TO GO

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WHERE TO GO

HEBREW UNIVERSITY. Tours of the Mount Scopus campus in English, daily Sun.-Thur. 11 a.m. from Bronfman Reception Centre, Sherman Administration Bldg. Buses 4a,9,23,26,28. For info, call 882819.

WHERE TO GO

HAIFA

WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-8374253.

WHERE TO GO

JERUSALEM

CONDUCTED TOURS
Tourists and Visitors. come and see the General Israel Orphans Home for Girls, Jerusalem,its manifold activities,and impressively modern buildings. Free Guided tours weekdays, 9-12.Bus no. 14, 24 , Kiryat Mosha.6523291.

ARTGUIDE

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ART GUIDE

HAIFA

THE REUBEN AND EDITH HECHT MUSEUM. (Haifa University). Permanent exhibition:The People of Israel in Eretz Yisrael - Phoenicians on the Northern Coast of Israel in the Biblical Period - Illness and Healing in Ancient Times . Impressionism and the Jewish School of Paris. Open Sun., Mon., Wed., Thur. 10-4; Tue. 10-7. Fri. 10-1. Sat.10-2 ADMISSION FREE.

JERUSALEM

Museums
OLD YISHUV COURT MUSEUM. Life in the Jewish community in the Old city, mid-19th century – World War II. 6 Or Haham, Jewish Quarter, Old City. Sun.-Thur. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

ART GUIDE

TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV MUSEUM OF ART.HELEN RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART."The Eyes of the Nation"-Visual Art in a Country Without Boundaries, Political aspects of Israeli art of the 70's. The Boundaries of Language-Anatomy of language in the visual arts. World in a bottle - Chinese Snuff Bottles and Paintings. Moshe Kipleman:Work Diary Screen prints 1996-1998. City Corner-From Orientalism through Bauhaus to Contemporary Architecture. Collections. **HELENA RUBINSEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART.**Chen Zhen-Jue Chang-Fifty Strokes to Each.Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue.,10a.m.,-10 p.m. Fri., 10 a.m.-2, p.m., Sat., 10 a.m.-3:p.m. **Meyerhoff Art Education Center,** Tel. 6919155-8.

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PETAH TIQWA AHAF 64 Orlov St. Tel. 03-9347111
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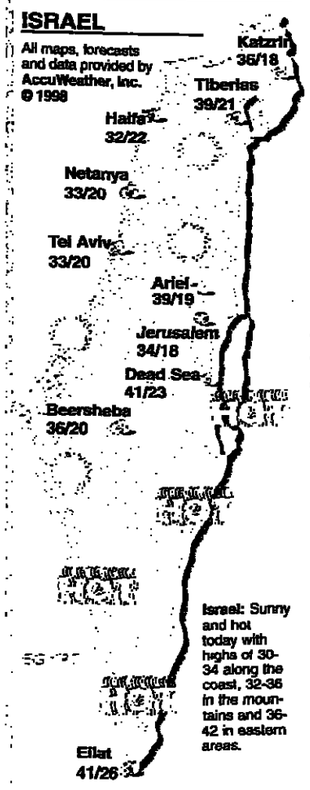
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THE WEATHER

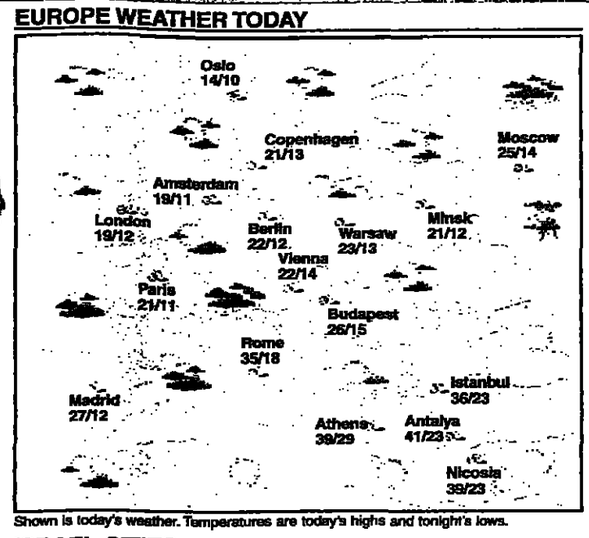
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ISRAEL

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EUROPE WEATHER TODAY



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

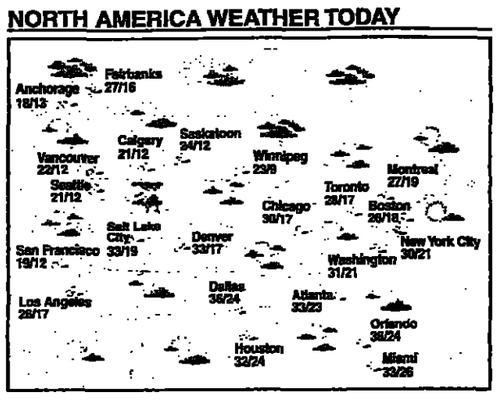
ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today High C/F	Today Low/W C/F	Saturday High C/F	Saturday Low/W C/F	Sunday High C/F	Sunday Low/W C/F	Monday High C/F	Monday Low/W C/F
Ariel	39/102	19/66/s	40/104	21/70/s	40/104	21/70/s	37/98	19/66/pc
Beersheba	36/97	20/68/s	38/100	22/71/s	38/100	22/71/s	34/93	20/68/pc
Dead Sea	41/106	23/73/s	43/109	25/77/s	43/109	25/77/s	41/106	21/70/pc
Eilat	41/106	26/79/s	42/107	26/79/s	44/111	26/79/pc	42/107	24/75/pc
Haifa	32/89	22/71/s	32/89	24/75/s	34/93	24/75/s	30/86	22/71/pc
Jerusalem	34/93	18/64/s	35/95	20/68/s	35/95	18/64/s	32/89	16/61/pc
Katzrin	39/97	18/64/s	39/102	21/70/s	39/102	21/70/s	36/97	18/61/pc
Netanya	33/91	20/68/s	33/91	22/71/s	35/95	24/75/s	31/88	22/71/pc
Tel Aviv	33/91	20/68/s	33/91	22/71/s	34/93	24/75/s	31/88	22/71/pc
Tiberias	39/102	21/70/s	42/107	23/73/s	42/107	23/73/s	39/102	21/70/pc

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

Full July 9 · Last July 16 · New July 23 · First July 31

NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY



INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today High C/F	Today Low/W C/F	Saturday High C/F	Saturday Low/W C/F	Sunday High C/F	Sunday Low/W C/F
Amsterdam	19/66	11/52/pc	19/66	16/61/sh	24/75	14/57/s
Beijing	36/97	24/75/s	35/95	27/80/s	36/97	27/80/s
Berlin	22/71	12/53/s	19/66	13/55/sh	24/75	17/62/s
Brussels	20/68	11/52/s	19/66	16/61/c	24/75	15/59/s
Cairo	37/98	24/75/s	39/102	24/75/s	40/104	24/75/s
Chicago	30/86	17/62/pc	27/80	17/62/t	28/82	18/64/pc
Frankfurt	24/75	12/53/pc	19/66	13/55/r	25/77	16/61/s
Hong Kong	28/82	26/79/t	29/84	25/79/r	30/86	26/79/pc
Johannesburg	21/70	1/34/s	17/62	1/34/s	20/68	6/43/pc
London	19/66	12/53/s	23/73	17/62/pc	26/79	14/57/s
Los Angeles	26/79	17/62/pc	26/79	17/62/pc	28/82	16/61/s
Madrid	27/80	12/53/pc	33/91	15/59/s	32/89	15/59/r
Mexico City	26/79	14/57/c	26/79	14/57/c	25/77	14/57/pc
Montreal	27/80	19/66/pc	28/82	14/57/t	21/70	12/53/pc
Moscow	25/77	14/57/t	21/70	14/57/r	23/73	16/61/pc
New York	30/86	21/70/s	30/86	21/70/pc	29/84	19/66/t
Paris	21/70	11/52/c	21/70	13/55/pc	25/77	13/55/pc
Prague	22/71	12/53/pc	21/70	12/53/sh	24/75	14/57/s
Rio de Janeiro	25/77	20/68/pc	25/77	19/66/pc	24/75	18/64/pc
Rome	35/95	18/64/s	29/84	18/64/s	30/86	21/70/pc
Sydney	17/62	10/50/pc	16/61	13/55/r	22/71	16/61/pc
Tokyo	33/91	28/79/pc	31/88	25/77/s	30/86	25/77/pc
Toronto	28/82	17/62/s	28/82	12/53/t	23/73	11/52/pc
Vienna	22/71	14/57/sh	26/79	14/57/pc	26/79	17/62/pc
Warsaw	23/73	13/55/pc	21/70	12/53/sh	23/73	14/57/pc
Washington	31/88	21/70/s	32/89	21/70/pc	30/86	20/68/t
Zurich	23/73	14/57/r	24/75	13/55/pc	26/79	16/61/pc

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NIS 365 In honor of the bar mitzva of Daniel Lewis Pesis - Mollie Oren, Rehovot.
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NIS 50 In memory of Marion Markovitz - Hershel Markovitz, J'lm.
$1,000 Alan and Diane Schuman, Hartford, CT.
$850 In honor of Sue Fox's 85th birthday - Her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren in Israel and U.S.
$500 In honor of the birthday of Diana Tabacinic of Paris, France - The Rohr Family, Miami, FL. In honor of the birthday of Gabriella Tabacinic of Paris, France - The Rohr Family, Miami, FL. John David Dodd, Point Roberts, VA.
$100 In memory of our parents, Yitta Lea and Zvi Hirsch Safern and Rose and Sidney Strassberg - William and Mildred Safern, F. H., NY.
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$22 From the allowances of four little girls, Abigail Etman, Bopi Bina Lazar, Be'arit Saide Lazar and Debera Lazar, New York, NY.
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New Donations	Progress Totals
NIS 2,027	NIS 100,985
$3,760	$27,814.50

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$50 In honor of our guests, Rose and Dick Lewis - Sylvia Warner, Campo, CA. Ruth and William Windwehr, Teaneck, NJ.
$35 In memory of Rabbi John Zucker, Temple Beth Shalom, CA - Sylvia Warner, Campo, CA.
$20 Moris Amon, Pittsford, NY.
$18 Anon., Hartford, CT. Adrienne Marks, Washington, DC. Wishing a speedy recovery to Martha Moskowitz and Tim Moskowitz - Mr. and Mrs. Harry Marvin, Deep River, CT.
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$209	$12,367.95

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Quarterfinals
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Germany-Croatia Lyon 22:00 (Channel 1)

Africa gives red card to commentary

NAIROBI (Reuters) – They start the tournament by referring to Ronaldo as Romario. Defenders get booked defensemen, crosses are pulled backs. Chileans become Poles and Brazilians get no names at all.

Much of English-speaking Africa has shown the red card to some controversial World Cup commentary supplied by French broadcaster Canal France International and the Union of African National Radio and Television Stations (URTNA). Sitting in a studio in Paris in front of monitor screens, a small team of African commentators watch the football coming in from distant stadiums. Broadcasting live, they have struggled to match the vivid images with expert commentary and analysis.

Some lack depth, showing a glaring lack of research on players, teams and past World Cups," Zimbabwean media critic Sam Mmuya said in the country's main daily newspaper, *The Herald*.

The World Cup, which this year was hosted in Africa as the first time that commentators could put words to pictures, has become painful for some.

"To really such clowns could find their way into the world stage and now hold us hostage for the rest of the tournament is too much to bear," wrote reader Peter Mihole in Kenya's *Daily Nation*.

Zimbabwe's Mmuyavi singles out Cameroon commentator Peter Essoka for "his trivial and poor knowledge of what is going on".

He referred to Chileans as Polish, Germans as French, the Scottish flag of St Andrew as Argentinian and the Dutch as Orangemen," he said.

Kenya's the *Daily Nation*, Mmuya and colleague Hammed Adio also bear the brunt of widespread criticism.

"Dunga passes to someone...," reader George Awuor quoted Adio as saying during a Brazilian match.

C.G. Gaita in a letter to the *Nation* quoted Adio from the opening games: "These Scottish players are very ordinary. In fact they have no names."

Kenyan commentator Bernard Otieno was criticized for referring to the tournament's joint top scorer as Vieri Christian and for talk of French players Petit Emmanuel and Blanc Laurent.

But saying peoples' surname first is a peculiarly Kenyan trait, he said.

"Blanc Laurent or Laurent Blanc is the same, isn't it?," Essoka said. "The names appear on the team sheets as Shearer, Alan."



CONFIDENT OF SUCCESS – Brazil's (from left) Junior Baiano, Cafu, Ze Carlos and Denilson joke after training in Nantes ahead of their clash with Denmark today. (Reuters)

Danes plot Brazilian coup

NANTES (Reuters) – A relaxed Denmark side promised yesterday not to sit back and watch Brazil produce all the attacking fireworks in their World Cup quarter-final at the Beaujoire stadium.

After their 4-1 win over Nigeria, the Danes have spent much of the week playing golf and tennis and have even been allowed to sidestep their normal diets and pay a visit to McDonalds.

Even so, they insist they are serious contenders for a place in the semifinals and Brian Laudrup, one of their key attacking weapons, suggests the Brazilians should be prepared for a Danish bombardment.

"We'll be going for goal," he confirmed. "It would be very disappointing if we just tried to defend against Brazil. If we are going to lose, I would prefer to attack and get beaten.

"Playing against Brazil in a World Cup quarter-final is something which might only happen to a Danish player once in 50 years. You've got to enjoy every minute." Freedom of expression is the recurring theme in the Danish camp and coach Bo Johannson offered a master-class in upbeat pre-match rhetoric following the squad's arrival in Nantes.

"We're very positive, very confident and we believe we can beat Brazil," he said, happy to indulge in a spot of pre-match psychology. "We don't have any weaknesses. Even if we did, I wouldn't tell you otherwise the Brazilians will know. We spent five minutes studying them yesterday, we'll probably do the same on Friday. The players know everything it is necessary to know." Striker Peter Moeller suggested his team felt they could "do miracles again", and Laudrup was more precise than his coach about the likely game-plan of probing the gaps behind Brazilian full-backs Cafu and Roberto Carlos.

"That's going to be a key area, because they will try and go forward and that will leave some space behind them. These are the areas I will try and exploit," said Chelsea's new signing.

"I've been encouraged by what I've seen of Brazil in France. They're human beings just like ourselves. Teams like Scotland and Norway, who have less quality than Denmark, have exploited their weaknesses and that encourages us.

"We are a physical side, tactically we are very strong and obviously we've got three or four individual talents who on their day can make the difference. Every team needs that and we showed what we can do against Nigeria." Even if the Danish attack fail to deliver, the Brazilians still have to deal with Peter Schmeichel, hailed by Laudrup as "the world's best goalkeeper.

"Everyone knows he's got presence and tremendous charisma and there's no doubt he's the best. It must be frightening even for Ronaldo to stand there and look up at him. He is a very important part of this Danish team."

France meet Italy in quarterfinals opener

SAINT-DENIS (AP) – In a battle of neighboring soccer giants, the World Cup quarterfinals open today with Italy-France and a showdown between top scorer Christian Vieri and star playmaker Zinedine Zidane.

The teams are expected to balance out in tactics and stamina, leaving it up to individual skills like those possessed by Italy's Vieri and France's Zidane to break open rock-solid defenses.

"It could be a free kick, a header or an imaginative move by one of the stars both teams are fielding"that decides the game, Italian coach Cesare Maldini said yesterday.

The winner earns a place in next week's semifinals here at the Stade de France against the Germany-Croatia winner. The losers go home.

France are worried that an ankle injury to its top striker, Thierry Henry, could blunt their attack. Henry has three goals so far. A decision on his availability will be made just before game time at 17:30.

The hosts are through to the final four years ago in the United States only to lose to Brazil. France last made the quarterfinals in 1986.

In their Mexican run that lasted into the semifinals, France, led by Michel Platini, coolly disposed of Italy 2-0 in the second round. It was their last World Cup meeting.

Zidane is now France's new Platini. Fresh from a two-game suspension, he's ready to challenge the Italians with his darting runs and defense-splitting passes.

"We must control Zidane," said Maldini. Most likely Dino Baggio or Gianluca Pessotto will try to man-mark Zidane as close as his shadow in the afternoon sun.

Vieri, who has scored five goals so far, will not get individual attention. He will have the whole French defense to contend with. In four matches French defenders, led by Marcel Desailly and Laurent Blanc, have conceded one goal – a penalty.

"We've played against Ronaldo. We've played against many of the greatest. They don't get special treatment," said Blanc.

Vieri remains confident. "I am convinced we can get through," he said, adding "I want to take advantage of this magic moment." But he also hinted that Italians may not be their usual formidable self. "It would be no shame losing against France." Sharing leadership of the offense with Vieri will be Alessandro del Piero, the playmaker who is desperately trying to make his mark on the World Cup.

Over the past decade, France has seen a lot of Gallic talent flocking to the riches and fortunes of the Serie A. Over half of the French players Friday will have played or are still playing in Italy.

Zidane and captain Didier Deschamps play for Juventus Turin, Desailly is just at end of a long stint with AC Milan and Youri Djorkaeff will clash often with his Inter Milan teammate Giuseppe Bergomi.

"There is a very good mix now and everybody will know one another on the pitch," said French coach Aime Jacquet.

France long had an inferiority complex about Italy but valuable lessons have been learned.

"The French playing in Italy have that fighting spirit.

There is no way we can lose to Italy," said midfielder Alain Boghossian, who will move to Parma next season.

"I have learned how to win," said Zidane. "Italy has changed me." And Zidane knows Italy's tactics will try to destabilize him.

After catching the red card for kicking a Saudi opponent, he will be bent on avoiding further ill discipline.

It will be the 31st match between the two teams, with Italy leading with 17 wins, seven draws and six losses.

SPORTS *in brief*

Bruce joins Sheffield United as player manager

SHEFFIELD (Reuters) – Former Manchester United captain Steve Bruce was named player manager of Sheffield United yesterday.

Bruce signed a three-year contract with the English first division side, taking his first management job after leaving Birmingham City.

Bruce, 37, will be assisted by Steve Thompson, who had been acting as a caretaker manager at Bramall Lane since Nigel Spackman's surprise resignation in March.

Staunton back at Liverpool

LIVERPOOL (Reuters) – Ireland defender Steve Staunton has returned to Liverpool seven years after leaving the club.

Staunton, 29, was snapped up by Liverpool manager Roy Evans on a free transfer after refusing to sign a new contract at Aston Villa.

He won championship and FA Cup medals during his first stint with Liverpool from 1988 to 1991 before the then manager Graeme Souness sold him to Villa.

Staunton is expected to be joined at Liverpool later this week by French defender Eric Sikora. The Lens player is poised to sign a three-year deal after passing a medical earlier this week.

Vinnie Jones convicted of assault

LONDON (AP) – Soccer star Vinnie Jones was sentenced to 100 hours community service and fined £1,165 by a magistrate yesterday when he was convicted of assault.

Jones, who earned a reputation as a soccer "hard man" for being sent off 12 times in his career, had denied assaulting his 27-year-old neighbor and causing criminal damage on November 11, 1997.

The 33-year-old former Welsh international joined Queens Park Rangers as player-coach in a £500,000 transfer deal from Wimbledon in February, three months after the incident.

Hagi retires from Romanian team

BUCHAREST (Reuters) – Romanian captain Gheorghe Hagi, hailed as the country's most illustrious soccer player of all time, officially announced his retirement from the national team yesterday.

"The time has come to quit," Hagi told a news conference the day after the national side returned home after their 1-0 defeat by Croatia in the World Cup in France.

"Any story has a beginning and an end and the end has come to my activity on the national team. I think I have accomplished my duty to my country's national team. It's time to give up my place to younger players," he said.

In eastern Europe's only Latin country, where debate and argument are a matter of course, commentators were unanimous in upholding Hagi as the best player in Romanian football history.

Hagi, 33, captained Romania in 54 matches over 15 years, accumulated a record 115 caps and scored 33 goals.

He made his national debut in August 1983 against Norway in Oslo and inspired Romania to reach the 1994 World Cup quarter-finals. He also led the team to the 1990 and 1998 world finals and at the 1996 European championship finals in England.

Hagi won the European Super Cup in 1987 with perennial Romanian champion Steaua Bucharest and a year after communism collapsed, he moved in 1990 to Real Madrid, for a transfer fee of $4.3 million, a national record at the time.

He later switched to Brescia of Italy, Barcelona and Galatasaray Istanbul, his current club.

KATASH

Continued from Page 24

Katash and the Knicks would be a good fit for several reasons. The Knicks are likely to trade John Starks, on whom they have relied for "instant offense" for several years. Katash is certainly an offensive threat off the bench. He is also likely to attract fans from New York's large Jewish and Israeli population.

However, he has never been regarded as an outstanding defensive player, and was passed up by the Pistons for not being "physical enough." Knick point guards Charlie Ward and Chris Childs were regularly burned by opposing guards during the season and playoffs, and the team is reportedly hoping to land Milwaukee Bucks guard Darrell Brandon, whom Katash would presumably back up.

Mickey Berkowitz and Doron Jamchee both had tryouts in the NBA, as did Katash's running mate in the Maccabi backcourt, Doron Sheffer, who was drafted by the Los Angeles Clippers. So did Nadav Henefeld, but both opted to play for Maccabi rather than warm bench in the NBA.

Katash would probably also meet the same fate. And while he can expect to earn only around $300,000 per season with the Knicks, Maccabi are said to be prepared to pay him more than three times that amount.

WINNING CARDS
In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily chance drawing
7 Q 9 9
7 Q 9 A

KALLIS

Continued from Page 24

But from 25 for one England never had another serious chance.

Kallis recorded his second Test century from 187 deliveries, with 13 boundaries. Kirsten, determined not to ruin the chances of a seventh century, became content with survival until the close of play.

Both Gough and Dominic Cork faded as the afternoon wore on.

England captain Alec Stewart was even forced to try the occasional off-spin of Mark Ramprakash after Croft and the second specialist spinner, left-armer Ashley Giles, had failed to make a breakthrough.

The only chance of the day, a difficult, low return catch, was put down by Giles shortly before the close when Kirsten had 89.

The day had begun pessimistically for South Africa when all-rounder Shaun Pollock's troublesome left leg failed to respond to treatment, leaving Makhaya Ntini to win a third cap.

Blue Jays pound Mets; Padres down Athletics

TORONTO (AP) – Alex Gonzalez hit a go-ahead, three-run homer in an eight-run eighth inning as the Toronto Blue Jays had their biggest offensive day of the season, beating the New York Mets 15-10 Wednesday on Canada Day.

Toronto, which won for the eighth time in 10 games, scored its most runs since July 13, 1996, when it beat Milwaukee 15-7.

The eight-run inning tied the club record set at Minnesota in a 14-8 win on May 28, 1986.

Edgardo Alfonzo homered twice for the Mets.

Padres 8, Athletics 4

In Oakland, California, Greg Vaughn hit his 28th homer, a controversial three-run shot, and Kevin Brown got his 10th win.

Quilvio Veras added a two-run single and Tony Gwynn, Ken Caminiti and Jim Leyritz all had RBI singles for the Padres.

Vaughn, named an NL All-Star reserve before the game, only got credit for his fourth-inning homer after an appeal to the umpires – who first ruled the ball had hit the centerfield wall and was in play.

Vaughn, who ended up at third, and the Padres argued it had bounced off a camera booth beyond the wall, and the umpires eventually agreed.

Cubs 6, Diamondbacks 4

In Chicago, rookie Kerry Wood, left off the National League All-Star team, struck out 13 in eight innings to lead the Cubs over the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Wood (8-3), backed by fans who hung "K's" around Wrigley Field for each strikeout, improved to 6-0 in eight starts at home. He gave up a one-out single in the third, a leadoff single in the fourth and a leadoff triple in the seventh.

Tigers 9, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, Seth Greisinger held Pittsburgh to five hits over eight innings for his first major league victory as the Detroit Tigers beat the slumping Pirates.

The Pirates were in danger of being shut out for the third time in four games until scoring in the eighth on Doug Strange's sacrifice fly.

Bobby Higginson had a two-run double in a three-run fifth inning marked by some sloppy Pirates' defense, and run-scoring singles by Damion Easley and Gabe Alvarez keyed a two-run first against Chris Peters (3-6).

Red Sox 6, Expos 1

In Boston, Bret Saberhagen pitched seven innings of three-hit ball and Nomar Garciaparra extended his hitting streak to 22 games for Boston.

Saberhagen (10-5) retired the first 10 batters and had still faced the minimum before Shane Andrews homered with one out in the sixth. That was the only run allowed by the two-time Cy Young Award winner, who struck out five and walked none.

Dustin Hermanson (6-7) lasted just 4 2-3 innings, allowing five runs and eight hits. He walked five, and two of his runs were unearned as the Expos had one error, a passed ball and two wild pitches.

Twins 2, Reds 1

In Cincinnati, Brad Radke, Minnesota's lone All-Star representative, got his ninth win as the Twins halted Cincinnati's five-game winning streak.

Radke (9-6) allowed nine hits and struck out four in six innings after being named to his first All-Star team earlier in the day. Rick Aguilera pitched a perfect ninth for his 17th save.

Pokey Reese went 3-for-3 for the Reds.

Braves 6, Devil Rays 5

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Chipper Jones' second homer of the game – a two-run, two-out shot off Roberto Hernandez in the ninth inning – gave the Atlanta Braves a victory over the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

Jones lined a 1-1 pitch over the right-field wall after Walt Weiss singled off Hernandez (0-3), who was trying to protect a 5-4 lead the Devil Rays took with two runs in the eighth.

The homer was the 20th of the season for Jones, who hit a solo shot off Julio Santana in the first inning.

Yankees 5, Phillies 2

In New York, Tino Martinez homered and drove in four runs, and David Wells celebrated his first All-Star selection by pitching the New York Yankees past the Philadelphia Phillies.

The Yankees won for the sixth time in seven games and improved to 12-3 against NL teams, the best interleague mark in the majors. Scott Rolen homered for the Phillies, who lost their fourth in a row.

Wells (11-2) was among five Yankees picked for the AL All-Star team earlier in the day. Coming off a shutout at Atlanta, he gave up one earned run in seven innings to win for the eighth time in nine starts.

Marlins 5, Orioles 3

In Baltimore, Livan Hernandez won his fourth straight decision as the Florida Marlins handed the Baltimore Orioles their eighth straight loss.

Florida scored two runs in the first inning without a hit and never trailed en route to its ninth win in 13 games. The Marlins are 5-0 against Baltimore over two seasons and their 20-10 interleague record during that span is the best in the majors.

Hernandez (7-4) gave up three runs and 10 hits in 7 2-3 innings.

Indians 5, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, All-Stars Jim Thome and Omar Vizquel drove in two runs apiece and Kenny Lofton had three hits as the Cleveland Indians snapped a three-game losing streak.

Dave Burba (10-5) allowed two runs and four hits in 6 2-3 innings, and Mike Jackson pitched the ninth for his 18th save.

Lofton added a season-high three steals and scored twice for Cleveland, which had four All-Star reserves named Wednesday by Indians manager Mike Hargrove, the AL manager.

Astros 10, White Sox 4

In Houston, Moises Alou drove in four runs and Sean Berry tied his career-high with four hits as the Houston Astros continued their scoring splurge.

Alou hit a two-run double in the first inning and a two-run homer in the seventh, giving him eight RBIs over the past two games and four homers in his last 11 at-bats. Jeff Bagwell added a two-run homer in the eighth for the Astros, who have scored 48 runs in their last four games.

Chicago's Albert Belle hit a 426-foot (128-meter) homer into the Astrodome's left-field upper deck in the sixth inning. It was only the 12th homer into the Astrodome's upper deck and the first since Mark McGwire's homer on June 18.

Royals 6, Cardinals 4

In St. Louis, Tim Belcher won for the fifth time in six decisions and Jeff Conine and Dean Palmer each had three RBIs as the Kansas City Royals continued their hottest streak of the season.

Mark McGwire, who hit his major league-leading 37th homer the previous night, went 0-for-3 with a walk and two strikeouts for the Cardinals.

The Royals have won five of six and eight of 10. The Cardinals have lost seven of eight and are a major-league worst 3-9 in interleague play.

Dodgers 7, Rangers 5

In Arlington, Texas, Eric Karros' two-run double capped a three-run rally in the ninth inning off All-Star closer John Wetteland.

Wetteland (2-1), named to his second All-Star team earlier in the day, entered the ninth with a 5-4 lead. He gave up a one-out single to Wilton Guerrero before second baseman Mark McLemore booted Jim Eisenreich's potential game-ending, double-play grounder.

One out later, Gary Sheffield singled home Guerrero. Karros then hit a liner into the right-field corner, scoring Eisenreich and Sheffield to hand Texas its first loss in 43 games when leading after eight innings.

Mariners 9, Rockies 5

In Seattle, Ken Griffey Jr. hit his AL-leading 34th home run and David Segui, left off the All-Star team earlier in the day, hit two homers as Seattle beat Colorado.

Griffey went 4-for-5 with three doubles, giving him a major league-leading 56 extra-base hits. His two-run shot off Mike Saipe (0-1) in the third inning pulled him within three homers of St. Louis' Mark McGwire, who leads the majors with 37.

Segui, a first baseman who wasn't selected to the All-Star squad despite his impressive stats, hit a solo shot in the third and a two-run homer in the fifth. Edgar Martinez also homered for the Mariners, who lead the majors with 133 homers even though they're in last place in the AL West.

Giants 6, Angels 3, (10)

In Anaheim, California, Bill Mueller hit a three-run homer in the 10th inning after failing in two sacrifice attempts, lifting the San Francisco Giants over the Anaheim Angels.

Mueller's homer off Greg Cadaret followed a leadoff single by Brent Mayne, a bunt single by Darryl Hamilton and a wild pitch that allowed pinch-runner Shawn Estes and Hamilton to advance.

Robb Nen (6-1), selected to the NL All-Star squad earlier in the day, pitched the final two innings, allowing the final run on Cecil Fielder's RBI groundout in the 10th.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	55	29	.655	–
New York	43	36	.544	9½
Philadelphia	40	41	.494	13½
Montreal	33	49	.402	21
Florida	30	53	.361	24½
Central Division				
Houston	51	32	.614	–
Milwaukee	43	38	.531	7
Chicago	44	39	.530	7
St. Louis	39	43	.476	11½
Pittsburgh	39	45	.464	12½
Cincinnati	35	50	.412	17
West Division				
San Diego	54	30	.643	–
San Francisco	49	36	.576	5½
Los Angeles	41	42	.494	12½
Colorado	37	48	.435	17½
Arizona	29	55	.345	25

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	57	20	.740	–
Boston	49	32	.605	10
Toronto	43	41	.512	17½
Baltimore	37	47	.440	23½
Tampa Bay	34	48	.415	25½
Central Division				
Cleveland	47	34	.580	–
Minnesota	39	43	.476	8½
Kansas City	37	45	.451	10½
Chicago	33	49	.402	14½
Detroit	32	48	.400	14½
West Division				
Anaheim	49	33	.598	–
Texas	46	37	.554	3½
Oakland	37	45	.451	12
Seattle	35	49	.417	15

Wednesday's games: Toronto 15, N.Y. Mets 10; Chicago Cubs 6, Arizona 4; San Diego 8, Oakland 4; Detroit 9, Pittsburgh 1; Boston 6, Montreal 1; Minnesota 2, Cincinnati 1; Atlanta 6, Tampa Bay 5; N.Y. Yankees 5, Philadelphia 2; Florida 5, Baltimore 3; Cleveland 5, Milwaukee 2; Houston 10, Chicago White Sox 4; Kansas City 6, St. Louis 4; Los Angeles 7, Texas 5; Seattle 9, Colorado 5; San Francisco 6, Anaheim 3, 10 innings.

Inside

World Cup action resumes today
Page 23

Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Katash set to sign with NY Knicks

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Maccabi Tel Aviv guard Oded Katash could become the first Israeli player to play in the NBA, if a deal New York Knicks will offer him a contract is finalized.

According to Hebrew media reports yesterday, the Knicks, who are desperate for help at the guard position, are likely to sign Katash, but an actual announcement has not been made due to the NBA lockout which officially began on Wednesday. NBA teams are barred from signing players while the lockout of the players the league has enforced is in effect.

Katash worked out with the Knicks earlier this week after failing to impress either the Los Angeles Clippers or Detroit Pistons. He is expected to tell Maccabi Tel Aviv officials on Sunday what his plans are for the upcoming season.

See KATASH, Page 23

Novotna gives herself perfect title chance

Will meet Frenchwoman Tauziat in Wimbledon final after ousting Hingis

LONDON (Reuters) – Jana Novotna gave herself the perfect opportunity yesterday to win the Wimbledon singles title at her 13th attempt with a straight sets semifinal victory over defending champion Martina Hingis.

The 29-year-old Czech, twice a beaten finalist at the All England Club, recovered from an awful start to beat Hingis 6-4 6-4 and earn a place in tomorrow's final against French 16th seed Nathalie Tauziat.

Novotna fell to her knees and patted the grass after Hingis blasted a backhand into the net to set up the 29-year-old's third shot at the title.

"It was one of the best performances of my career and it means so much more after what has happened in the past," Novotna said.

The Czech-born serve-volleyer has twice come tantalizingly close to lifting the title, throwing away the advantage to Steffi Graf in 1993 and to Hingis last year.

Novotna is best remembered for crying on the shoulder of the Duchess of Kent while within a point of taking a 5-1 lead against Graf in the deciding set five years ago.

Last year she also looked to have the title in her grasp, taking the first set against Hingis before folding.

"I have learned from mistakes last year...I was really coming into this match prepared and it showed," she said.

"This year I am playing some really top tennis." Wimbledon crowds have taken Novotna to their hearts, and the packed Center Court gave her rousing ovation after her victory in 83 minutes.

Earlier, Tauziat became the first French woman to reach the Wimbledon singles final in 73 years when she came back from a set down to beat unseeded Belarussian Natasha Zvereva.

The African-born Tauziat, who beat world No. 2 Lindsay Davenport in the quarterfinals, reached her first grand slam final with a 1-6 7-6 6-3 victory.

Both Tauziat and Novotna started nervously, Tauziat losing the opening seven points, while Novotna surrendered the first nine points.

Novotna trailed 3-0 and was in deep trouble at 0-40 in her second service game, but she fought back bravely saving four break points in all.

In perhaps the key point of the match, she clinched the game with a rasping forehand winner on the run.

From that moment she dominated the match, taking the next four games on the way to winning the set in 41 minutes.

The pair exchanged breaks at the start of the next set before Novotna clinched the crucial break in the ninth game and then held serve to love to clinch victory.

"I tried to come in and I tried to stay back, but she always had the better answers," said Hingis.

"She's already a great champion, she's been here twice before in the final and this year she has a great chance. I hope she wins," added the Swiss world No. 1 who last year became the youngest player to win the women's singles title at 16 years, nine months and five days.

In a women's tournament widely expected to showcase the new dynasty of teenage players, the final will surprisingly feature two relative old-timers. At 30, Tauziat is a year older than Novotna.

Tauziat, who was born in the Central African Republic, was staring at an ignominious exit after surrendering the first set in just 22 minutes.

The world No. 15 dug deep, though, and the pair traded breaks in the second set until Tauziat clinched it 7-1 on a tie-break.

Her confidence boosted, Tauziat took control of the third set and served out for victory.

"I am so happy to win...to be in a grand slam final. And that it is in Wimbledon makes me even happier," Tauziat said.

"I started very slowly and it was embarrassing. What embarrassed me the most was that I was not playing.

"I said to myself: 'Come on Nathalie, fight' and I fought well.

I'm not on the moon yet, but nearly there."

Today's order of play

Men's semifinals (prefix number denotes seeding): Center Court (starts 15:00) 14-Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia) v 9-Richard Krajicek (Netherlands). 1-Pete Sampras (US) v 12-Tim Henman (Britain).



OLDTIMERS TAKE CENTER STAGE – Jana Novotna (left) and Nathalie Tauziat will meet in the Wimbledon ladies' final tomorrow. (Reuters)

Kallis and Kirsten make England toi

MANCHESTER (Reuters) – An impressive double century stand by Gary Kirsten and Jacques Kallis put South Africa in control of the third Test against England yesterday.

By the end of a miserable opening day for a host side already trailing 1-0 in the series, Kallis was 117 not out and opener Kirsten unbeaten on 98. The second wicket stand was worth 212 and the South Africa total an imposing 237 for one.

The partnership sailed by the previous highest stand for South Africa in seven previous Tests at Old Trafford – 171 scored by sixth wicket pair Johnnie Waite and Paul Winslow in 1955.

It also equalled the highest second wicket stand for South Africa against anyone – Kirsten and Daryll Cullinan scored 212 against India at Eden Gardens in 1995.

Gerhardus Liebenberg was England's solitary victim on a slow pitch made easier for the batsmen when the sun made a belated appearance and dried the surface.

He played inside the line to a straight, quick delivery from Darren Gough and was bowled for 16.

See KALLIS, Page 23

South Africa first innings

G.Kirsten not out	98
G.Liebenberg b Gough	16
J.Kallis not out	117
Extras (b-1 lb-2 nb-2 w-1)	6
Total (for one wicket, 97 overs)	237

Fall of wickets: 1-25

To bat: Daryll Cullinan, Hansie Cronje, Jonty Rhodes, Mark Boucher, Lance Klusener, Allan Donald, Paul Adams, Makhaya Ntini.

Bowling (to date): Gough 20-1-64-1 (2nb), Cork 18-3-51-0, Fraser 13-5-19-0, Croft 24-42-0, Giles 17-4-41-0, Ramprakash 5-0-17-0

England: Mike Atherton, Nick Knight, Nasser Hussain, Alec Stewart (captain), Graham Thorpe, Mark Ramprakash, Dominic Cork, Robert Croft, Ashley Giles, Darren Gough, Angus Fraser.

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Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu,
Don't give in to the pressures of the Clinton Administration and the Israeli Left.
Please stand firm with courage and determination, to prevent the implementation of the DISASTER map, and we will stand by you.

Siege
Dozens of settlements will suffer a siege of terror and property theft.

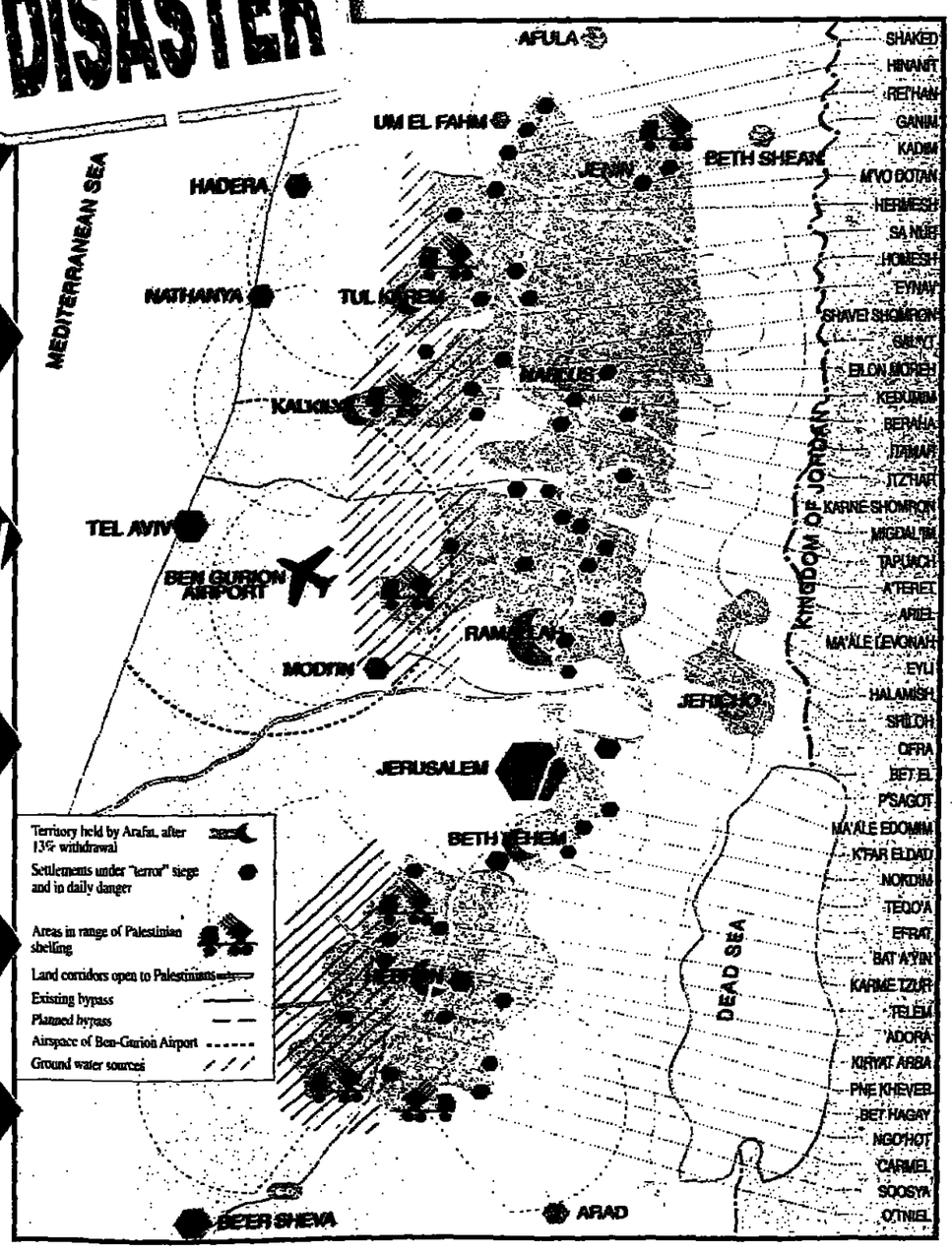
Every Day Life
Gush Dan and Ben Gurion Airport will be within range of katyusha and gun fire, as in Upper Galilee.

The Water Economy
One third of Israel's water resources, located in the hills of Judea and Samaria, will be handed over.

Ecology
Palestinian sewage will be dumped in the Sharon and nature reserves.

The Zionist Ideal
The concept of a homeland will become debased and valueless.

Security
Creation of a continuous strip of territory for the establishment of a terrorist state in Israel's heartland and advancing the front line in case of war.



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